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Jobs in jeopardy with closure of site after 15 years

# FUNDING CRISIS HITS DAY CENTRE

**Report by Jordan Harris** 

A DAY centre for vulnerable elderly people is to close this week after bosses revealed it was 'no longer financially via-

ble' to run.
The Apna Ghar day centre, in Pleck, provides day care services for up to 60



opening.

Operators Accord Housing Group made the decision after with-drawing funding due to 'Government pres-sures'. The group has solely funded the centre after Walsall Coun-

Pardeep Kairo

Pardeep Kairo

Ti stopped financial support two years ago. It is not yet known if there will be any job losses. Maxine Espley, executive director of health, social care and support for the Accord Group, said: "It is with great regret that we have to close Apna Ghar Day Centre.

"However, self-funded for the last two years following the withdrawal of Walsall Council funding it has become clear, with new government pressures on housing associations, that the service is no longer financially viable.

#### **Alternative**

"We have met with customers and their fami-

"We have met with customers and their families and are working with the council to help find alternative day care provision in the area. We are also working with staff to find alternative roles within the wider Accord Group."

Pardeep Kairo, 34, a college lecturer from Pleck, has started a petition calling on bosses to reconsider the decision or find a way to keep the Apna Ghar day centre open.

So far he has collected nearly 300 signatures in person and online. He said: "The centre provides such a valuable and crucial service to elderly and vulnerable people in Walsall. We are supposed to be dealing with an increasingly elderly population in Walsall and taking away facilities like this is only going to cause damage. After taking control of the day centre two years ago, Accord Housing group funded a £750,000 revamp of the site, which was transformed with the installation of new central heating and hot water systems, as well as a dining room with internet access.

## **HUNDREDS TURN OUT TO REMEMBER THE FALLEN**



Standard bearers and veterans take part in the Remembrance Day procession to the cenotaph from Walsall Council House in Lichfield Street

HUNDREDS gathered in Walsall to pay tribute to members of the Armed Forces killed in conflict. Families from across the borough crowded around the cenotaph in Bradford Place as civic dignitaries led the Remembrance Sunday proceedings.

These included a parade and a guard of hon-

our for the mayoral party formed by Walsall Sea Cadets. There were poignant moments too as hymns and the national anthem were sang with pride, the Last Post was played and a two-minute silence observed.

Members of the Mercian Regiment were led by their mascot, Lance Corporal Derby XXIX, a pedigree Swaledale ram. Mike Bird, the leader of Walsall Council,

said: "It was probably the most well-attended event ever. We were very lucky to have the Chief Constable Chris Sims attend as well as

the deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Yvonne Mosquito and of course Walsall MP Valerie Vaz.

"In all my time going to the Remembrance Service this is without a doubt the best at-tended one I have been to." Before the main service took place respects

Before the main service took place respects were paid to John Henry Carless, with descendants of the hero accompanied by the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Angela Underhill.

Born in Walsall, the Ordinary Seaman was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross "for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty" after battling on despite being mortally wounded. Other services took place in Streetly, Aldridge, Willenhall, Short Heath, Bushing Republic Republic Responses Bloxwich, Darlaston, Brownhills, Pelsall and

Silent - Page 22



John Henry Carless's niece Joan Poole

#### **SERVICES**

#### Grass cutting set to be less frequent

STREET cleaning and grass cutting across Walsall will be cut back under plans by the borough council to save £375,000.

The proposals, which form part of a plan by the council to cut £25 million from its budget in 2016/17, would involve axing 15 environmental operative roles, which the authority expects to manage through vacant posts. The council wants to reduce the frequency of its summer highway verge grass cutting service. Instead of every fortnight to three weeks, the grass would be night to three weeks, the grass would be cut every three to four weeks.

#### **LEISURE**

#### Fitness fanatics try out new equipment

FITNESS fanatics turned out to try the new equipment at Wednesbury Leisure
Centre as the £8 million facility opened
its doors to the public for the first time.
Members of the public had not been
able to use the facilities until this week.
The centre's sports hall will be
named after Joel Richards, the 19-year-

old from Wednesbury, one of the vic-tims of the Tunisian terror attack.

An official ceremony to mark the naming of the hall takes place on De-cember 9.

• Running – Page 20

#### **DEVELOPMENT**

#### Housing on way at primary school site

THE site of a former primary school in Walsall will be developed with almost 50

Walsall will be developed with almost 50 homes after plans were approved. The former Clothier Street Primary School, in Harry Perks Street, will make way for 48 homes. The plans submitted by Walsall Housing Group and Galliford Try Partnerships were given the green light by the borough council on Friday. The school site was made vacant in 2007, with the building demolished not long after. The plans will see 30 two-bedroom homes, 13 three-bedroom homes and five one-bedroom flats built on site, with 72 car parking spaces provided.

#### INSIDE

#### REMEMBERING **BRAVE STEPHEN**



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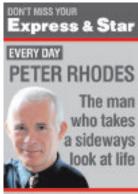
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#### CHRONICLE

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## Restaurant embroiled in parking row



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and parking up in front of residents driveways near a restaurant in Great

Barr, prompting calls for action.

People claim the issue over outside
Badshah Palace, on the A34 Walsall Road, is 'escalating out of control'.

Councillors say they are aware of the issues and will look at measures such as

painting double yellow lines outside the venue, at the former Clifton Bingo Hall. Residents living near the Tower Hill site said they have been plagued with Badshah Palace, Great Barr parking problems since the hall opened

ocking the entrance to the West Midlands Ambulance Service hub and to the Co-op store. They say it is difficult to park near their homes and sometimes they cannot get on to their driveways.

In May motorists had been caught on camera parking across the entrance to Tower Hill ambulance station, blocking in emergency vehicles. Perry Barr ward councillor Jon Hunt said: "There are a lot of issues around managing events at the new Tower Hill venue but key points raised were that fireworks at the premises are illegal and dangerous and should be reported immediately. It is important residents report and note specific incidents. We are looking to have traffic officers covering the area on a daily basis to put a stop to the issues

of parking and traffic congestion."

Mohammed Mamunur Rashid, managing director of Badshah Palace, said they had encountered more problems in the first 12 months of opening than they had anticipated, but were trying to work with residents and the ambulance station to resolve the issue

## threat after cuts mooted

**Borough's** 

**CAB under** 

THE future of Walsall's Citizens Advice Bureau is under threat as part of council plans to axe its funding to save more than £480,000.

Malsall Council is planning to set up a charitable trust offering welfare support and advice and cut its funding to the town's Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) altogether over the next two years.

attogether over the next two years. The plans aim to save the authority £487,920 but a report into the council's budget cutting proposals states that if a new trust is not established, residents will have 'substantially reduced' support in fature. in future years.

will have 'substantially reduced' support in future years.

The CAB, which is used by more than 100 people a day, provides welfare benefits advice and helps people with debt, housing, employment and immigration issues. Bosses say the service dealt with more than 50,000 issues from 44,000 people in 2014-2015 and they fear the council's plans could leave thousands of people with nowhere to turn for help.

They have now launched a campaign to try to safeguard its funding from Walsall Council. CAB's chief executive Can Pice said: "Everyone who supports Citizens Advice should be deeply concerned by the proposal to stop funding Walsall CAB. We want to be there for all who need us, but without core funding from the council, we won't be able to attract additional money." additional money.

additional money."

Savings would be delivered by the removal of grant funding to the CAB over two years and internal staffing savings, with plans to cut 18 posts within the council by 2020.

#### **Industrial site** set for homes

AN industrial site empty for more than five years will be transformed after

five years will be transformed after planning chiefs gave the go-ahead for warehouses be built at the site.

The development is planned for the old Ductile Wesson site in Moxley where the previous foundry shut in 2009, closing the door on 200 years of history.

British Airways Pension Trustees Ltd is poised to breathe new life into the site after plans were lodged with Walsall Council to build two warehouses, offices, car parking and service yards at the site in Bull Lane.

Darlaston South Councillor Doug

in Bull Lane.

Darlaston South Councillor Doug James said: "We have heard a great deal of talk about when and, how this famous site was to be brought back into use."

It comes after around 150 people lost their jobs when the foundry shut down.

## **Charity auction to** be held at church

A CHARITY auction is to be held in Cannock to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The bidding sale is at St Luke's Church hall in the town centre on Monday starting at 1pm. The event will feature a tombola and other stalls. sale is at St Luke's

## Cuts to see council let o of leisure centres

be taken out of the hands of the borough council in a planned move, bosses say will save the council £500,000.

Walsall Council also says the move to transfer management of the centres to a third party trust would secure the future of two swimming baths in the borough.

Dorougn.

The authority says it is not suitable to run the leisure facilities, which bosses want to see supporting themselves at no cost by 2018. The trust, which would be formed for the role, would run Gala Baths, Darlaston

the role, would run Gala Baths, Darlaston Swimming Pool, plus the new centres being built in Bloxwich and Walsall Wood.

A report on the council's cost-cutting budget plans has revealed that income generated from the new leisure centres could subsidise the running of Darlaston Swimming Pool and the Gala Baths, helping to secure their future. The plans would also involve transferring 125 council staff to the new organisation.

#### **Proposals**

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird said:
"You can create an arm's length organisation and you can put leisure facilities into
that trust. This is just something we are
looking at. There are benefits from a tax
point of view. The trust means they don't
have to pay business rates."

The report into the budget proposals
states the move could save the authority
6529 105 in 2017/18

states the move could save the authority £522,195 in 2017/18. It said: "As a discretionary service the council has set an aspiration that the leisure centres should operate at no cost to the council by 2018. It is anticipated that the new Bloxwich and Oak Park Active Living Centres will meet this target. It is unlikely Darlaston Swimming Pool and the Gala Baths will be able to do so unless alternative delivery proposals are considered. "Reducing government grants to local authorities has led the cabinet office to promote alternative service delivery models to generate income to protect services, allowing the facilities to compete and encourage greater commercialism and efficiency."

The new Bloxwich and Oak Park Active

The new Bloxwich and Oak Park Active Living Centres which are currently being built are due to open next summer.

## Councillors call for road revamp



Councillors Paul and Chris Bott appeal for road improvements including traffic calming measures

THERE were calls this week, to improve part of the Black Coun-New Road used by thousands drivers each day in Moxley.

Darlaston South councillors Paul and Chris Bott have raised concerns about the road, saying the carriageway has deteriorated and desperately needs to be resurfaced. They have also called for better road markings, traffic-calming measures and a clean-up of road signs and litter. It comes after 31-year-old Dean Strong died after his car plunged into Walsall Canal, along a section of the route near Aldi last month. Two passers-by pulled Mr Strong out of the water after his vehicle concerns about the road, say-

ploughed into the canal on October 8. His car had gone around 32ft down an embankment.

Councillor Chris Bott said she

Councillor Chris Bott said sne has been campaigning for road improvements for more than a year. She said: "For the last 18 months we have campaigned about the state of this road. We have met with a manager from clean and green on site. All what gets done is cosmetic.
"Raad signage is covered by year-

gets done is cosmetic.
"Road signage is covered by veg-etation, anti-glare barriers have been missed for a long period of time on the Holyhead Road. We call on the council to resurface all the Black Country New Road, with better road markings and

better speed restrictions on both side of this road. "Myself and Paul would like to send our condolences to the fam-ily of Dean Strong. This probably wouldn't have prevented this ac-cident but these issues need adcident but these issues need ad-

dressing."
Walsall Council was unavailable for comment.
Assistant coroner Kally Cheema

opened his inquest at Smethwick Council House and gave his pre-liminary cause of death as hypoxic immary cause of death as hypoxic brain injury and submersion in water. A full inquest into the circumstances surrounding Mr Strong's death is due to be held on Monday.



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## **Gun deaths** total 28 for region over last 10 years

TWENTY-EIGHT people have mur dered at the hands of gunmen in the West Midlands in the past 10 years.

The figures were released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Last year, there was not a single gun murder. But just last week a man died after a shooting in Birmingham.

The years 2005 and 2008 were the worst, with six recorded murders in each year. In 2006, 2009 and 2010 there were three, while there were two each in 2011 and 2013 and one each in 2007 and 2012.

each in 2007 and 2012.

The figures come in the wake of a shooting in Birmingham which claimed the life of a man just last week. It took place in Soho Hill, Hockley in the early hours of Friday morning. A 25-year-old man died and a second man has been left in a critical cardidities is bewild 1.4 87: critical cardidities in bewild 1.4 87: critical cardidities in the second. a second man has been left in a crimical condition in hospital. A 27-year-old man was arrested in Walsall in connection with the shooting and has been bailed with strict conditions pending further investigation.

West Midlands Police said: "Our ab-polytic vicility is the Man and the said: "Our ab-ception of the said: "Our ab-

west Midianos Fonce salari. Our and solute priority is to keep people safe and reduce the overall harm of gun crime on the communities of the West Midlands.

"We have dedicated units tackling was also and said the local said to be said to be

gangs and gun crime. On a daily basis gangs and gulf crime. On a dualy basis they disrupt criminal networks across the region and step in before disputes have the opportunity to escalate into murders or serious criminality. "We also work alongside charities and victims of gun crime to de-glam-crice come where mud the con-

orise gang culture and the use of

#### **Social fears on** cuts to libraries

CUTS to libraries in Walsall could have long term social effects for the borough, according to a councillor.

Beechdale, Blakenall, New Inven-tion, Pleck, Rushall and South Walsall libraries are to close under cost-cut-ting plans by Walsall Council.

Funding cuts are also planned for the borough's youth clubs. The coun-cil is looking to save £25 million.

But Councillor Tina Jukes, who represents the Birchills Leamore area, said her ward will be particularly affected by the cuts. She said: "I do wonder what is going to happen to the kids who use these facilities if these cuts go ahead. They are the adults of tomorrow and they will be forced to spend their youth walking the streets with nothing to do."

#### **Forest centre** all set to swing

WALSALL Jazz Orchestra will per-form at the town's Forest Arts Centre

The show will take place on November 16 at 8pm. Tickets cost £4 and are available on the door.

## Older mothers crisis for midwives

RECORD numbers of births to older mothers are putting maternity units under pressure – with the NHS short of around 2,600 midwives.

The number of babies born in England and Wales to women in their thirties and forties was up 6,859 in 2014.

And that figure is on the rise in the West Midlands too, raising fears that hospitals that are already under pressure will struggle to cope. In Sandwell the number rose by four per cent, compared to three per cent in Dudley and Wolverhampton, two per cent in Walsall and three per cent in Staffordshire.

Nationally, births to women in their early thirties

2010 - a level not seen since at least the 1930s In every year since 2006, more than 110,000 babies have been born to women in their late thirties

(35-39). This is a level of births not seen since just after the Second World War, and four times the level of the late 1970s

For women in their 40s, births have been above 29,000 for four years in a row. These are again numbers not seen since the years after the Second World

With 661,496 babies born in England last year, almost 100,000 higher than in 2001, the Royal Colege of Midwives said the NHS is short of around 2,600 midwives, made worse by the ageing of the

The number of midwives in England aged 50 or over has doubled from 4,057 in 2001 to 8,169 in

Last year is believed to be the first year on record when the NHS employed more than 1,000 midwives in their 60s

The number aged 65 or over rose from just eight a 2001 to 177 last year, the RCM said.

RCM chief executive, Cathy Warwick, said: "All

women deserve the very best care, regardless of the age at which they give birth. Women have every right to give birth later in life, and we support that. But typically, older women will require more care during pregnancy, and that means more midwives

# Pensioner kicks off over ground's fire nightmare

and park is in the minds of people looking for a new home - a football ground is a place most want to avoid.

Why? Ask pensioner Mary Galt. She has faced years of smashed windows and playrecently, a 20ft high fire which melted her home's guttering and window frames. The 76-year-old lives next to Darlaston Town

The 76-year-old lives next to Dariaston Town Football Club's old ground and claims to have been subjected to years of misery. Her home, in Rectory Avenue, backs onto the City Ground.

Avenue, backs onto the City Ground.

Her latest nightmare came when the ground's main stand went up in flames in a suspected arson attack that left her fearing for her life.

The heat from the blaze damaged the window frames and guttering on the five bedroom semi-detached house she has lived in for 43 years.

According to Mrs Galt, she has never received a penny of compensation or offered any assistance with repairs that have run into thousands of pounds over the years. "It's been an absolute nightmare for years and this latest fire is the worst thing to happen so far," the mother-of-four said. "It takes me a good five minutes to get down the stairs and I was scared for my life when I saw the size of and I was scared for my life when I saw the size of the flames. Parts of the guttering has melted away.

#### **Foundations**

"It's yet more damage that I will have to pay to get repaired." Mrs Galt said that a 'catalogue of disasters' involving the ground have left her with mammoth repair bills. The foundations in the alleyway next to her home have been wrecked by water cascading down from the stand's roof, which have do to allow down to the stand's roof, which

water cascading down from the stand a root, which used to slope down towards her property. It also destroyed the floor of her shed and toilet. She said there have been 'numerous occasions' where footballs have smashed through windows, including one incident where a ball went straight through leaded lights and destroyed a picture frame harging on her leading will.

through leaded lights and destroyed a picture frame hanging on her landing wall.

"Tve never had one shred of help from the council or the football club," Mrs Galt said.

"After the fire last week some workers came around and put up 8ft x 4ft wooden boards on the back of the stand. It looks a right old mess."

Darlaston Town played at the ground until the original club folded in 2013, at which point Walsall Council took over the running of the site. Fans set up a new club, called Darlaston Town (1874), two years ago which plays at Bentley Leisure Pavilion.

No-one from Walsall Council was available to comment.



Mary Galt, from Rectory Avenue, Darlaston, after the fire damage nextdoor at Darlaston Football Ground

## Call for crackdown on rogue landlords

A WALSALL councillor has

a WALSALL COUNCILOT has called on the local authority to get tough on rogue landlords.
Councillor Doug James, who represents Darlaston South, said he is concerned about the shortage of affordable housing in Dar-laston and Moxley. He said he fears that 'unscrupulous opera-tors' may be taking advantage of tenants in the area as a result. "Across the country there are

hundreds of concerns regarding health and safety breaches, fihealth and safety breaches, fi-nancial scams, illegal evictions, overcrowding and harassment from residents in the private rental sector that require stronger action," Mr James said. "Unscrupulous operators are attracted to take advantage of local people's extreme despera-tion for housing. Walsall Coun-cil is required to enforce Health

& Safety standards in private rented houses. Renters don't always know this and, the council hasn't the resources to cope with the increase in the private sector housing stock.

"It is time to get tough on "It is time to get tough on rogue landlords as complaints soar across Walsall and The Black Country. We need action and, fewer 'trips round the Wre-kin' by hard pressed staff."

**FREE** 

#### **Taylor Wimpey** in sponsorship

WILLENHALL Town Football Club has resigned Taylor Wimpey as one of its pitch sponsors. The housebuilder, currently building high-quality new homes at its Spring Walk development in Willenhall, is one of a consortium of business sponsors for the club.

The £500 donated by Taylor Wimpey will go towards the cost of pitch rental at Willenhall Town's new home in Queen Street, Bilston, being shared with league rivals Bilston Town. Simon Hall, chairman of the club, said: "We're extremely grateful to Taylor Wimpey for their support."

#### **Hundreds back** library protest

A PETITION launched recently in a bid to save New Invention Library from closing has already gathered around 300 signatures.

The library, in Lichfield Road, is one of around half a dozen earmarked to close as part of plans Walsall Council to save £25 million in its 2016/17 budget.

Beechdale, Blakenall, New Inven-tion, Pleck, Rushall and South Walsall libraries are at risk of closure as part of the new raft of planned cuts.

The petitions have been placed in shops in the community.

#### **Youngsters get** games invites

LIBRARIES across Walsall are invit ing seven to 11-year-olds to join their new games clubs.

A children's chess club is opening

at Streetly Library. It will take place on Tuesday afternoons between 4pm and 5pm. All abilities are welcome. A monthly Lego club started on No-vember 7, from 10.30am to 12pm at Brownhills Library. Aldridge Library will host a Code

Club taster session on November 18 It will begin at 4pm.

#### Chance to design your own computer games

A NEW coding club will give young-sters in Wolverhampton the chance to design their own computer games, animations and websites.

Volunteers from the University of Wolverhampton will teach children aged nine-to-11 meets how to use Scratch, a programming language de-

vised for youngsters.

The Code Club meet every Monday from 5pm-6pm at Wolverhampton Central Library. Call 01902 552023 for more information.

#### Special service at farm

A SERVICE dedicated to lost loved ones will be held at a farm in Wolver hampton next month.

Northycote Farm, Underhill Lane, Bushbury is holding the service at noon on December 5.

Visitors can buy a star for £1 to be hung on a Christmas tree for charity.

other available deals







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## THE BEST OF RHODES



SUPERSTITIONS for our time. A reader SUPERSTINONS for our time. A reader tells me that, just as actors avoid the word "Macbeth" by referring to "The Scottish Play," he and his wife have grown wary of mentioning the name of their local furniture establishment. It is simply "The Swedish Store." I bet that could catch on.

IN some versions of this column on Monday, the cost of the HS2 railway appeared as  $\mathfrak{L}60$  million. If only. The true cost is  $\mathfrak{L}60$  billion, or if you prefer,  $\mathfrak{L}60,000$ million. If you can cope with all the zeros, it's actually £60,000,000,000 or about £1 billion per mile. Confused? I think that is what they want.

HOW insurance works: A friend who always parked his car on his drive is moving to a house with a garage. So he told his insurance company of the change and asked by how much his premium would be reduced, in view of the added security of parking in a garage. The woman at the insurance company explained that there's no reduction but he would be charged a £26 admin fee for notifying them of the change.

SO farewell Colin Welland who has died aged 81. I saw him on stage once and died was a memorable performance. It wasn't a play but a political rally. Welland was at Birmingham Town Hall in May 1987 speaking at a pre-election meeting in support of Neil Kinnock and Labour. The former of Neil Kinnock and Labour. The former 2-Cars star predicted that this time Labour would win. "The Tories will be so far behind," Welland thundered, "that all they'll see is our big fat arse." The audience loved it. Welland then intro-



duced Kinnock "honestly and with utter conviction, the next prime minister of Britain." As it happened, Kin-nock managed

to lose not only the 1987 election but the 1992 one, too. Great oratory is a wonderful thing but if the voters don't trust you, it's just words.

IF it is proved that an Islamist bomb brought down the Russian airliner in Sinai, I would not care to be living in Raqqa this week. The Russians are not known for their week. The Russians are not known for their kid gloves. In the 1990s Chechnya wars, in response to terrorist bombs, Russia shelled, mortared and carpet-bombed the enemy capital Grozny until it was, as the United Nations put it, "the most destroyed city on earth." Raqqa is the Syrian city which has become the capital of Islamic State and a honeypot for hundreds of brainwashed Muslims from Britain. How long before the nightmare which haunted us during 40 years of the Cold War comes true, and Russian bombs kill British citizens?

TERMS for our time. "The doily of death." A spider's web, as described on Autumnwatch (BBC1)

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Mon**day to Friday'in your **Express & Star** 

## Quarter earn below living wage

MORE than a quarter of workers in the Black Country and Staffordshire earn below the living wage, new fig-

earn below the hvng wage, new fig-ures show.

The voluntary living wage, as pro-moted by the Living Wage Founda-tion campaign group, has increased by 40p per hour to £8.25 per hour.

More than 2,000 accredited em-ployers have agreed to pay it, includ-ing Lloyds Banking Group, Barclays,

Unilever and Richer Sounds. The figure is higher than the current national minimum wage of £6.70, and the Government's pending National Living Wage for those aged 25 and over of £7.20 per hour that is due to

over of £7.20 per nour that is due to start next April.

But although the increase means a pay rise for staff working at em-ployers signed up to the living wage, across the Black Country and Staf-

fordshire 167,000 workers earn less than the old rate of £7.85 per hour. Figures from the Office for Na-tional Statistics show that in South

tional Statistics show that in South Staffordshire almost one in three jobs pay less than the rate. In Sandwell, 36,000 workers pick up less than £7.85 an hour, equating to 29.5 per cent per cent of the total workforce. Walsall has 25,000 employees earning less than the old rate (28.1

per cent) while in Dudley the same can be said of 28,000 staff (26.6 per cent). In Wolverhampton, a quarter of employees earn less than £7.85 per hour, representing 23,000 jobs.

notur, representing 23,000 joos.
Ravi Subramanian, Regional
Secretary for Unison in the West
Midlands, said: "There has been an
increase in the number of employers
who are paying the living wage and
this has to be welcomed."

# Error on names led to ex-MEP funeral blunder

A SPELLING mistake was among a string of errors that led to the wrong body being cremated of West Midlands MEP Philip Bradbourn at Bushbury Crematorium, a report reveals.

The 63-year-old died on December 20 last year at Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield following a battle with Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield following a battle with cancer. His funeral took place at in January. However, the man who was cremated was Philip Bradburn, who had died at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital on December 24. Staff at Good Hope's mortuary repeatedly failed to carry out accurate identity checks on the two hodies, the Heart of England NHS Trust said in the new report with written records

England NHS Trust said in the new report, with written records either not completed, incomplete or inaccurately doctored, leading to confusion. Bosses at the trust have apologised for the gaffe, which they have attributed to a 'complex and multifactorial' set of circumstances.

#### **Failings**

The report revealed a series of failings on the part of two funeral directors and Good Hope. It says that as Good Hope's mornt says mat as Good Hope's mor-tuary was nearing capacity, staff requested four bodies – including Mr Bradbourn's – to be moved to Central England Co-operative Funeralcare in Lichfield

The names of those to be moved were given over the phone but not followed up with an email listing personal details, the report said. The funeral home collected Mr Bradbourn's body but sent it back to Good body but sent it back to Good Hope four days later after his family requested to change to a cremation. On the same day, Mr Bradburn's body – which had been wrongly identified as Mr Bradbourn's – was sent back to

been at the funeral directors for too long.

When it got to Good Hope from the funeral directors, the name 'Bradbourn' had been name 'Bradbourn' had been scrawled onto the accompanying paperwork, over-writing Mr Bradburn's name. On examining the paperwork, two doctors signed off the cremation for Mr Bradbourn – but the body of Mr Bradburn was released. Dr Andrew Catto, of Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust, said a 'rare and complex set of circumstances' had led up to the blunder. He said: "We are very sorry that this incredibly distressing situation has happened."

that this increanily distressing situation has happened."

A spokesman for Central England Co-operative said: "Our priority has been to work closely with all concerned so that we can learn from this unfortunate incident."

A second funeral for Mr Brad-

bourn took place at Wolver-hampton's St Peter's Collegiate Church, in February. Mr Brad-bourn was born and raised in Tipton and was a parliamentary candidate for Wolverhampton South East in the 1992 election.

## **Full Monty set for stage**

THE Full Monty will be per-formed in Darlaston in aid of Cancer Research and Birming-ham Children's Hospital.

The night of entertainment will take place on November 14 and will also include a tribute act, two comedians and a drag artist. The night will end on a

performance of The Full Monty. The show is at Darlaston All Active on Willenhall Road. Tick-ets cost £10 in advance and £15 on the door. Performances will begin at 7pm. To book, call 0121 568 6144 or 07970500561, or visit the Charity Full Monty & Variety Night on Facebook.

Unit 6, Arrow Industrial Estate, Straight Road Short Heath, Willenhall WV12 5RA

www.firesandfireplaceswillenhall.co.uk 01922 475222

## Tree to remember Stephen



Organisers Sharon Whitchurch and Joanne Jarvis with some of the yellow bows

A CHRISTMAS tree will be put up in memory of Stephen Sutton again this year – with yellow bows to decorate the year – with yellow b tree already on sale.

Our Tree for Stephen was launched last year in memory of Stephen, who helped to raise more than £3 million for charity before he died in May last year.

The Christmas tree, on Sankey's Cor-ner, was covered with hundreds of yellow bows, helping to raise more than £1200 for Teenage Cancer Trust. Organisers behind the event have planned an official switch on event for November 28.

Organiser Joanne Jarvis, of Sister Dora Avenue said: "Last year's event was so wonderful, seeing the smiles on every-one's faces who saw the tree. Hopefully we will beat last year's amount raised."

The vellow hows are individually made and supporters can leave a message on the bows, costing £1, £3 and £5.

They can be purchased from Burnt-wood Town Council office, Boney Hay Primary School and Paul Carr estate agents in the town. The Christmas lights will be switched on, on November 28 at 6.30pm, outside Burntwood Library

## **Councillor's** backing on depots bid

THE decision to allow warehouses to be built on an industrial site which has stood empty for more than five years has been praised by a councillor.

British Airways Pension Trustees British Airways Pension Trustees is poised to breathe life into the old Ductile Wesson site in Moxley after plans were lodged with Walsall Council to build two warehouses, offices, car parking and service yards at the site in Bull Lane.

The plans were given the nod by Walsall council's planning committee during a meeting last week.

during a meeting last week.

Councillor Paul Bott, who represents Darlaston South, said he welcomed the plans and has asked for a piece of public art to be put on the new site to mark its history. He said: "I think this was a great decision for a number of reasons. It will breathe new life into a site with a lot of industrial history and also put an end to anti-social behaviour which has plagued the site for a number of years.

"I have asked planning officers to

"I have asked planning officers to get in touch with developers and look at the possibility of creating a piece of public art to be put on the site in honour of its history. Hopefully this will create jobs too, so it is great news for the area." for the area

Around 150 people lost their jobs when the foundry shut down more than five years ago

#### **Festive lights** switch-on will see roads shut

WOLVERHAMPTON city centre road closures have been announced for this year's Christmas lights switch on, which is being carried out by the Chuckle Brothers. The event runs from 5-9pm in Queen Square on November 25.

vember 25.

Darlington Street will be closed from the junction of Red Lion Street to North Street, while Queen Square and Lichfield Street is shut from the junction of North Street to Princess Junction of North Street to Princess Street. From midday until 9pm Dud-ley Street will close at the junction of King Street and Woolpack Street. From 6.15-6.45pm there will be further closures due to a firework dis-

play. Darlington Street will shut from the junction of Waterloo Road to Victoria Street, with School Street closed toria Street, with School Street closed from the junction of Salop Street to Darlington Street. Meanwhile, Skin-ner Street will close from the junction of Victoria Street to School Street, and Victoria Street will close from Cleveland Street to Queen Square. All bus stops on Lichfield Street will be suspended.

#### Police to security mark bikes for free in city

WOLVERHAMPTON Police will be marking bikes for free as a security measure on November 25 in Dudley Street.

Between 12.30pm and 7pm, people can have their cycle marked and registered with Bike Register.

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## **Borough's GCSE** results among the **UK's worst**

SECONDARY schools in Sandwell are among the worst performing in the country when it comes to pupils gaining decent GCSE results, figures have shown.

Provisional figures from the Department for Education (DfE) put Sandwell in 145th place out of 152 local authorities for pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C induding English and maths, with only 46.1 per cent of youngsters achieving the benchmark in the 2015 exams.

46.1 per cent of youngsters achieving the benchmark in the 2015 exams.

Despite an improvement on last year's results Wolverhampton came 137th in the country, with 48.6 per cent of pupils gaining the required grades, up 2.2 per cent from last year.

The national average is 52.8 per cent. The two areas are among the 20 lowest performing local authorities in the country that Education Secretary Nicky Morgan has vowed to target.

Sandwell Council has described the results as 'worrying', while education bosses in Wolverhampton vowed to continue to work closely with schools. Dudley saw 52.4 per cent of pupils achieving the benchmark, down from 53.3 per cent last year, while in Walsall the figure was up 1.5 per cent to 50.2 per cent.

In Staffordshire 55.3 per cent of youngsters gained five or more GCSEs.

oungsters gained five or more GCSEs at A\*-C, up from 54.9 per cent in 2014. The results are usually released in January but have been issued three months early this year with the aim of giving parents up-to-date information before submitting amplication from before submitting application forms for secondary school places.

#### **Challenges for Acorns charity**

A CHARITY for children with life threatening illnesses is facing a 'potent cocktail of challenges' as it tries to raise £9 million, according to its chief executive.

Acorns Children's Hospice, which provides palliative care and support to children with life threatening illnesses and their families across the West Midlands, aimed to increase the number of children it cares for by 50 per cent by 2018.

However that has had to be put back until 2020 now.

Acorns chief executive David Strud-ley has called on all corners of the community and the Government to help the charity carry on.

To support the charity go to www acorns.org.uk or call 01564 825000.

#### **Decorations bid** with workshop

A CHRISTMAS house decorations workshop for adults will be held at Walsall Leather Museum on November 28. It takes between 10.30am and 3.30pm and tickets, costing £22.50, are available on 01922 652288.

## Village clock shows its poppy appeal



ted poppies have added a splash of vibrant red to the memorial clock in Pelsall. The stunning display was organised by Councillor Garry Perry as part of the village's Remembrance

Day events.

The idea to decorate the landmark with the woollen flowers was only conjured up in September when around 40 keen knitters got straight to work, with many creating more than 100 poppies each.

Councillor Perry said he was overwhelmed to see his vision come alive.

captured the imagination of people of all ages and it really is amazing. It is quite emotional to see it finished." He added: "We wanted to do some-

He added: we wanted to do some-thing positive and imaginative so we got to work with individuals and community groups and even held a big knit event for everyone to get to-gether. The knit-a-poppy appeal has really gathered momentum and we were inundated."

Councillor Perry said the best part of the community project was listen-

those knitting were just incredible, especially to hear their personal stories about family members who fought and why they felt it so important to get involved."

The poppies which cover the clock, are made in various sizes and designs and the display took around three hours to finish. Councillor Perry said:

"We chose the clock as it is a key fea-ture of the village and we wanted to make a really visual display."

## To mark the partnership, the firm in Bloswich is donating £25,000 to Birmingham Dogs Home to go towards the costs of looking after stray and abandoned dogs at their new £6 million centre near Solihull, which opened last month. **Hard workers are** wanted for show

Pets company

forms alliance A PET accessories company in Walsall has formed a five year partnership with Birmingham Dogs Home.

Over the next five years, Ancol and Birmingham Dogs Home will work together on a series of campaigns, competitions and events to help raise awareness and funding for the home.

TELEVISION producers are on the hunt to find the hardest workers in Walsall for a new BBC Two documen-

BBC presenter Nick Robinson will be coming to the borough over the coming months and asking the question – do we work hard enough in Britain?

The programme makers are inter ested in talking to anyone who work round the clock or has more than one

Call 02036 140033 or email bb workfilm@gmail.com.

#### **Cutting down** on collections

GARDEN waste collections will short

The last scheduled collection be fore the winter break begins will take place in the two weeks up until No-

weens up and 100 vermore 20.

They will then restart in April.

All the information about collections can be found at http://walsallbins.co.uk/ where residents can use the postcode checker at to access de-tails of their next collection.

#### Baggies fans among loudest in the Premier

BAGGIES fans have been ranked joint second loudest in the Premier League. They share the second place with Stoke City and Spurs in terms of deci-bels recorded by fans.

Manchester United topped the league, which was put together by Netbet.

Netbet.

John Homer Chairman of the Albion Supporter Club said: "Helping bring more passion and enthusiasm to the stadium from a fan point of view is the stadium from the game." very positive for the game

#### Composer on tour

OSCAR-WINNING film composer, Hans Zimmer will be bringing his first tour to Birmingham in one of only two UK shows.

The tour comes to the Barclaycard Arena on April 12 2016. Tickets are on sale at £39.20 - £72.20. Book online at www.theticketfactory.com

# Flooding alerts scheme is set up for hotspots

eras to warn residents at flooding hotspots near homes has been extended to benefit householders in Darlaston and Willenhall.

Campaigners living in Halesowen were among those to suffer problems after Illey

Brook flooded seven years ago.

CCTV cameras and hi-tech sensors were positioned at Illey Brook by the Environment Agency last year to monitor water levels and alert residents at risk of flooding through an automated phone call.

People can follow the camera observations

on Twitter by viewing photos and alerts. Now, there are cameras at seven sites throughout the West Midlands, including in Willenhall and Daylorder.

the West Midlands, including in Willenhall and Darlaston.

The hi-tech flood warning cameras have now been installed to monitor Darlaston Brook, in Darlaston, and Tame Tunnel in the West Acre area of Willenhall. Alert systems are also in place for Dawley Brook, in Kingswinford, and Mousesweet Brook at Mushroom Green, near Netherton. Netherton.

#### Alerted

The camera system, which is entirely solar powered, will monitor seven watercourses across the county to help make sure that local residents are alerted if their properties are at

residents are alerted if their properties are a risk of flooding.

Residents who sign up to the Environment Agency's flood warning service will receive an automated call, and those who follow the camera via twitter will receive alerts and photos when the water levels rise significantly.

Darlaston South Councillor Paul Bott has redeemed the scheme.

Welcomed the scheme.

He said: "Anything that helps to prevent flooding has to be a good thing. People who have had their homes flooded in the past some-

have had their homes flooded in the past some-times have trouble getting insurance on their properties again."

Environment Agency project manager Jamie Sarginson said there was a history of severe flooding in places such as Illey Brook when 46 properties flooded in 2008.

He added: "Since then the Environment Agency has been working closely with partners and communities to investigate ways to make them more flood resilient – and this new cam-era goes a long way to achieving that goal. The cameras have a high water sensor which will enable us to alert residents as river levels rise." enable us to alert residents as river levels rise

## **New look for academy launches**



Head teacher Michelle Slymn and Archdeacon of Walsall the venerable Sue Weller with the uniforms

FROM all-out navy to purple and at All Saints Church, in Bloxwich. dren to vote. We also now have a white – a school in Bloxwich has Year six pupil Amber Smith, new logo which has been designed marked turning into an academy by unveiling a new uniform for its

pupils.
Bloxwich C of E Primary
School, in High Street, became All
Saints National Academy on Seppupils. Bloxwich

A new purple uniform, which includes a purple and white stripped tie, was unveiled to pu-pils and parents during a service

Year six pupil Amber Smith, aged 10, has designed a new logo, consisting of three crosses, a dove and a sun, which will be put onto

the uniforms. Headteacher Michelle Slymn,

meatreacner whenever symm, who has been in post since the school became an academy, said: "The old uniforms are navy and the children have chosen the new purple scheme. It went to school council and they asked the chil-

dren to vote. We also now have a new logo which has been designed by one of our year six pupils.

"It has crosses, a dove which signifies peace and the Holy Spirit and a sun on the right hand side." She said the school now wanted to find a graphics company which could work with the pupils to bring the logo design into production. Mrs Slymn said: "It's been a very positive experience being an very positive experience being an academy."

## Cloudy2Clear Windows - Service With A Smile!

Cloudy2Clear Windows. The any which specialises in teamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service, 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when

we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding approach is a major factor in his cess 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people goes to show how much a little bit

of effort is appreciated.' So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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## Public free to ask how our money gets spent

PEOPLE who know me will tell you I am seldom lost for words. But even I am struggling to comprehend the thinking of our public servants when it comes the

Freedom of Information Act.

Take, for example, Keith Ireland, the managing director of Wolverhampton Council. He says the questions people are asking under the Act are not what it was originally intended for, and come paight for example to the council of the c mainly from people looking to 'make trouble' for the council.

hainly from people looking to make troble' for the council.

Sorry about that old boy, And I think know the type of questions he means. Like "how much money do councils spend on consultants and agency staff when reducing library hours?" Or "How many times do they use anti-terror legislation to snoop on people suspected of not picking up dog poo?"

Of course the great and the good don't want us pesky troublemakers asking questions like that. Much better we stick to nice questions, such as "why are you so jolly good at everything?"," and "can we have a few more parking restrictions, please?"

Problem is, these are not the burning questions on everybody's lips, and that's

Problem is, these are not the burning questions on everybody's lips, and that's not quite how democracy works. The idea is the public asks whatever questions it wants to about how our money is spent, and the public servants duly oblige. It's why they are called public servants. And here's a good question, which nobody seems to have asked yet. "Why did it take an Act of Parliament to make councils answer simple questions from the people they are paid to serve?" No rush, an answer within 20 working days will be fine.

NOW I'll square with you. When the World Health Organisation last week branded processed meats 'carcinogenic', and said fresh red meat 'probably caused cancer', I was worried.

I really wished I liked lettuce, salad, and the occasional oily fish, but the fact is I really can't bring myself to eat the stuff. To me, a meal is not a meal unless it has at least some beef, pork or lamb with it.

And I'm pretty partial to pork scratchings as well. Yet, according to the boffins, eating this sort of thing daily leads to an 18 per cent increase in the chances of getting cancer. Which makes my

es of getting cancer. Which makes my diet sound about as healthy as driving a Volkswagen.

I've since read that the risk is not quite as great as it sounds. A squeaky clean lettuce muncher typically has a six per cent chance of developing bowel cancer, while a red-blooded carnivore will probably have a seven per cent likelihood.

It probably is wise for us all to keep many typical control and its cont

an eye on our meat consumption, and i surely is a good idea to discourage chil-dren from picking up bad habits. Even so, I don't think I will panic just yet.



Lara Mason, from Brownhills, adds finishing touches to the cake



The amazing detail of the little royal feet on the cake



Rose Macefield with her dinosaur cakes for the NEC even

# Show time is royal icing on the cake

LISA O'BRIEN looks at the amazing world of cake sculpture which has seen many local talents on show at the NEC

AMAZING lifelike cake creations inspired by the Rocky Horror Show, Jurassic Park and a royal toddler have been sculpted by star bakers across the West Midlands.

The life-sized replica of two-year-old Prince George is the latest cake creation

of amateur baker extraordinaire Lara Mason, from Brownhills. Her new creation has been exhibited at Cake International in Birmingham and the 29-year-old was due to find out if she had been

29-year-old was due to find out if she had been awarded a top prize.

Her 90cm tall creation, which was entered into the large decorative exhibit category, was the result of 30 hours of hard work over the space of a fortnight. It contains Madeira cake, icing and chocolate and is able to stand tall with an inner structure of wood and rods.

#### **Determined**

She has already won silver and gold prizes at previous shows for her life-like models of at previous shows for her life-like models of Tyrion, a character in the hit TV series Game of Thrones, Katniss, from the blockbuster film The Hunger Games and Captain Jack Sparrow, from Pirates of the Caribbean.

But Mrs Mason, who makes her creations from her home in Hussey Road, was determined to top her efforts this year.

She said: "I had to top my life-size Jack Sparrow and Jennifer Lawrence cakes from the last two years.

"The judges last year said they wanted to see something a bit smaller so I thought what could I do. Prince George is instantly recognisable and he's very cute, so that helped.
"He's got an inner structure of rods and

aone and ne's very cute, so that helped.
"He's got an inner structure of rods and
wood. He's covered in cling film, Madeira cake,
icing and chocolate. I never expect a prize. I
like doing something that surprises people so
if I get a prize, it's an extra bonus."



Edna & Ethel's Cake House in Lye - right, Juliet Schofield of Wolverley and Sarah Russell

Edna & Ethel's Cake House in Lye – right, Ju
Meanwhile, a giant dinosaur cake has also
been baked by Rose Macefield, who runs Rose
Marie's Cakes & Sugarcraft shop in Coseley, to
exhibit at the same NEC event.

Ms Macefield, of Bilston, baked the T-Rex
cake based on hit film Jurassic Park.
As well as exhibiting, she was also judging
competitors cakes over the weekend.
She said: "I started making cakes about
eight years ago now. I wanted to make a cake
for my son's christening and after that people
started asking for cakes and I got hooked on
it. I went to college and then starting entering
into competitions. I don't compete anymore
but I am a judge. I just love sculpting."
Asked about the t-rex cake, Ms Macefield
added: "It's taken probably about three hundred hours over about four months to make.
The planning and preparation was a mammoth task in itself.

"It's all well and good having an idea but you need to make it work. Obviously I won't get a prize for it but I am hoping that people be impressed with my work as I did it to show people what I could do with sculpting. I'm not sure what will happen with it after the show. I would want to get more out of it but I am not having it in my garage. I am hoping someone will take it on to display it."

As well as judging and exhibiting, Ms Macefield was also taking pre-orders for her book – Sensational Sculpting Cakes.
She said: "The book is great for up and coming cake makers. It teaches people how to sculpt cakes and also gives them the confidence they will need to do it.

"There are nine cakes in the book and it shows people step by step in great detail how to recreate these cakes."

Juliet Schofield from Edna and Ethel's Cake "It's all well and good having an idea but



A full view of the amazing Prince George cake

House in Lye has invented an epic Rocky Hor-ror-themed creation.

She said the event had given cake makers a chance to show off their skills and was 'fan-

a chance to show off their skills and was 'fantastic'.

She added: "It's been brilliant, the whole set-up is great. Everybody has done a fantastic job. It's been nice to hear everybody walking past saying 'wow'."

Mrs Schofield, 51, runs the shop in Lye High Street with her friend Sarah Hill.

Her cake was based on Rocky Horror characters Brad and Janet while Sarah designed a Frank n Furter-themed bodice.
"Tm a fan of Rocky Horror.

Frank n Furter-themed bodice.

"I'm a fan of Rocky Horror.

"The cakes are more like works of art – they take weeks of art to complete.

"I think people might not realise how many hours of work go into these – you've got to love it, and it's got to be your passion."



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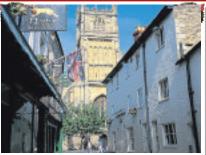
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# Thursday, November 12, 2015

## **Upset over sorry state of town**

ough status.
For much of the last week I have felt increasingly depressed as one dismal story follows another. I might be tempted to slash my wrists – except that the latest story tells me that the cash-strapped council is to raise fu-neral fees! We start with the predict-able collapse of two much-vaunted

The Vue cinema is a goner. OK, cinema habits have changed since the days when there were two cinemas within three minutes' walk of the abandoned site – the posh Savoy and the fleapit Classic.

youngsters'

aspirations

ONE of the many absurdities contained in Walsall Council's budget 2016/17

consultation proposals is the consideration of a severe cut in Targeted Youth Ser-

vices. An important element

of the proposal rides on the calculations, by a 'formu-la', to redistribute Target-ed Youth funds apparently

to make the system fairer,

port for the 'Five Ws' metro line.

This comes after years in which bridges over the trackbed had been maintained, and a new bridge had even been built to accommodate the even been built to accommodate the proposed line at the former power sta-tion site. Instead, the council has the bright idea of reviving railway pas-senger services with stations at 'Dar-laston' – actually industrial wasteland at James Bridge – and Willenhall.Any ideas about passenger numbers and service frequency necessary to make service frequency necessary to make such a service viable? The only sensi-ble light rail route between Walsall and Wolverhampton would closely follow the old trolleybus route (modern bus 529). My home town can't claim to be

I WAS born in Walsall, and have lived in the borough all of my life except for a few years while working in London. The town has a great history, having port for the 'Five Ws' metro line.

The town has a great history, having been one of the first to gain county borough status.

This comes after years in which the hours of the art gallery and close the decrease of the probably a sound a great 'city of culture'. In a town in commercial decision. Then the council cluding the constituency with the second-lowest proportion of graduates in the country, the council wants to cut the hours of the art gallery and close the probably a sound a great 'city of culture'. In a town in commercial decision. Then the council cluding the constituency with the second-lowest proportion of graduates in the country, the council wants to cut the country the council was the constituency with the second-lowest proportion of graduates in the country the council was the country that the country the country the country the country the country that the country the country that the country the country the country that the country the country the country the country that the country the country the country that the country that the country the country the country the country that the country the country the country the country that the country the country the country the country the country that the country the country the country the country that the country the country the country the country the country the country that the country the country that the country the country that the country the country that the citiding the constituency with the sec-ond-lowest proportion of graduates in the country, the council wants to cut the hours of the art gallery and close several libraries.

I became an enthusiastic reader 60

years ago in the kids' section of Blox-wich library. Now our philistine coun-cil wants to cut access to great art and to close libraries – especially in parts of the town in which homes are unlikely to be filled with books.

This town needs a council with vi-

sion.

Oh, well, time to go out. I'll just have to be careful not to break my ankle in one of the potholes Walsall can't afford

to repair.

A T HARRISON

Walsall

## Don't trash **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** Bullfight

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone nber number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## **Clearing up myths** over fox hunting

## under fire

I THINK most people would be shocked to learn that

to end this state of affairs
As part of vote on the
EU's budget for 2016, we backed a successful amend-

animals for sport is barbaric. Yet it has been supported for years by EU funding through CAP grants.

but we can stop it benefiting from the misdirection of our

# subsidy

their taxes have been used to subsidise bullfighting, all due to a peculiarity of the EU's Common Agriculture Policy. Together with fellow Conservative MEPs, I voted

ment to stop the subsidy.

We aim to end this sickening use of taxpayer money once and for all. Torturing



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## Butcher's raising steaks as shops move



Outside Coopers Family Butchers, Jon Cooper, from Coven, Stan Cooper, aged 82, from Rugeley, Rob Cooper from Cheslyn Hay and Michelle Cooper, also from Rugeley

TWO long-running Darlaston family firms are bucking the trend and moving to bigger premises. Coopers Family Butchers, which has been in Walsall Road for more than 40 years, and nostalgia shop Mindful Gifts, on King Street, will both be relocating.

The butchers will move to King

Street, will both be relocating.

The butchers will move to King
Street, while the retro shop will relocate to Church Street.

Coopers Family Butchers was set
up by Stan Cooper more than 60 years
ago, with the shop in Walsall Street
opening in the 1970s. The business is
now run by Stan's children, Rob, Jon
and Michelle. The new store was made
possible with the help of the council's
regeneration officer, Diane Mansell.

Rob, who has been chair of the Darlaston Town Centre Partnership for the past two years, has worked with Diane before in regenerating the town and both were instrumental in reintroducing the market last month.

ducing the market last month.

Rob, aged 57, said: "It is with great sorrow leaving and closing our shop in Walsall Road after 41 years. The three of us have many memories and there's been over 100 years of retailing on this site. But we're now looking forward to seeing old and new customers in our newer site whilst maintaining our tradition and quality." Mindful Gifts, which sells retro toys and traditional sweets, opened last year, and has been a hit with customers wanting to enjoy

products from a simpler time.

Old-fashioned games and activities are available for people who want to relive a simpler time. Vicki Phipps, 51, said: "I've always thought there needs

said: "I've always thought there needs to be somewhere for people to go and enjoy talking about the past, whilst enjoying a cuppa together. That was the inspiration behind Mindful Gifts.

"The new premises means that we can now have a bigger range of stock and gift ideas with a vintage theme. We've set up a tea room for customers to enjoy tea and coffee from traditional cups and saucers as well as a model grocery store featuring tins such as Orlox beef suet, carbolic soap, Camp Coffee and Reckitt's Blue."



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## **Anti-Islamic posters** pensioner avoids jail

series of anti-Islamic posters near a mosque in Walsall has avoided a jail sentence.

avoided a jail sentence.
Francesco Riccobono displayed the posters over a three-day period in the Wednesbury Road area, near the Aisha Mosque, which featured images and messages mocking the Islam faith.
The inflammatory material caused alarm and distress among the Muslim community, Walsall Magistrates' Court heard.

Court heard.

Court heard.

Riccobono, of Sherridan Close, Pleck, was caught in the act on July 3, when police officers spotted him trying to put up another of his posters.

The 68-year-old fled but was caught with a ripped-up poster at his feet and in possession of Pritt Stick glue.

He complained to police that there was 'no freedom of speech' when he was arrested. He was handed a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, for the hate crime. Mrs 12 months, for the hate crime. Mrs Maggie Meakin, prosecuting, said: "Over a period of 72 hours posters were repeatedly put up. The defendant ran from the scene and was arrested."

#### Candid

Riccobono at first denied any knowledge of the posters and ran from the police because he 'didn't like them'.

Mr Mandeep Bassi, defending, said: "He has been very candid and expressed opinions that other people might not express. It is a free country, we live in a democratic society. We don't live in North Korea where thoughts are controlled by the Government. He makes it clear he has no harted for Muslims and he makes it clear tred for Muslims and he makes it clear tred for Muslims and he makes it clear the incident occurred after he was subjected to abuse for his views. He has gone about things the wrong way. Until last year he had never been in trouble. Things have happened in his mind that have affected him – something has clearly gone wrong."

Riccobono pleaded guilty to racially religiously aggravated intentional harassment. He was also ordered to pay £510 in court costs and £50 in compensation.



Francesco Riccobono seen outside Walsall Magistrate's Court

## BT b-rings in total of £466m

BT GENERATED £466 million for the Black Country economy over the past year, according to a new independent report. Across the West Midlands BT is responsible for the employment of 6,383 people – 5,720 direct employees and 663 contractors – of which more than 1,400 are in the Black Country.

Salaries and wages account for in-come from employment of around £216 million but the report also looks at BT's spending with contractors and suppliers in the area and on the spend-

ing of its employees. The report, from Regeneris Consulting, found that BT's impact was bigger than the region's civil engineering sector.

Tim Fanning, associate director at Regeneris Consulting, said: "Our anal-ysis confirms the sheer scale and reach ysis confirms the sheer scale and reach of BT's ongoing economic contribution to the West Midlands and the UK as a whole. BT makes a contribution to every community across the UK. At the UK level, £1 in every £80 of wealth created is attributable to BT.'











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## Leader's fury at asylum seeker 'unfair burden'

ONE in three of all asylum seekers nationally are being sent to live in the West Midlands, it was claimed today.

Councillor Roger Lawrence, chairman of the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, said the region

Migration Partnership, said the region was 'shouldering an unfair burden'. Councillor Lawrence, who is also the leader of Wolverhampton council, said he had raised concerns with the Home Office and controversial security firm G4S which has a multi-million pound contract to house asylum seekers.

He said: "I'm seeking an early meeting with the minister to set out our concerns about getting the best possible outcome for these very vulnerable people and to ensure a fairer solution for already 'under the cosh' local authorities in the West Midlands. "We believe that around one-third of all claimants nationally are being accommodated in the West Midlands.

#### Unfair

"I am asking the Home Office to look again at the number of local authorities that asylum seekers are currently dispersed to. A small number are shouldering an unfair burden, including ourselves."

Councillor Mike Bird, meanwhile, leader of Walsall Council, said: "It is not right that the Blade Countrain at them server of the

the Black Country and other parts of the West Midlands are housing more asylum seekers than other areas. We have a long waiting lists for housing as it is. If there are

waiting lists for nousing as it is. It there are too many asylum seekers in some areas it leads to communities feeling intimidated and can cause tensions."

The Home Office won't disclose current numbers of asylum seekers or the locations of accommodation for their 'protection and privacy'. But the latest official figures from Sentember show the number of asylum privacy. But the latest official figures from September show the number of asylum seekers in Sandwell was 695, in Wolver-hampton it was 645, Walsall was 234, and Dudley was 226. In Birmingham there were 1,400 asylum seekers.

## Collision victim treated



A picture from West Midlands Fire Service of the two-car collision Blue Watch attended on Stafford Road last Monday

A WOMAN was taken to hospi-tal following a two-car smash in Walsall. Emergency services were called to the incident at the junction of Stafford Road and Turnber-ry Road, in Bloxwich.

The crash happened at about 5.45pm last Monday.

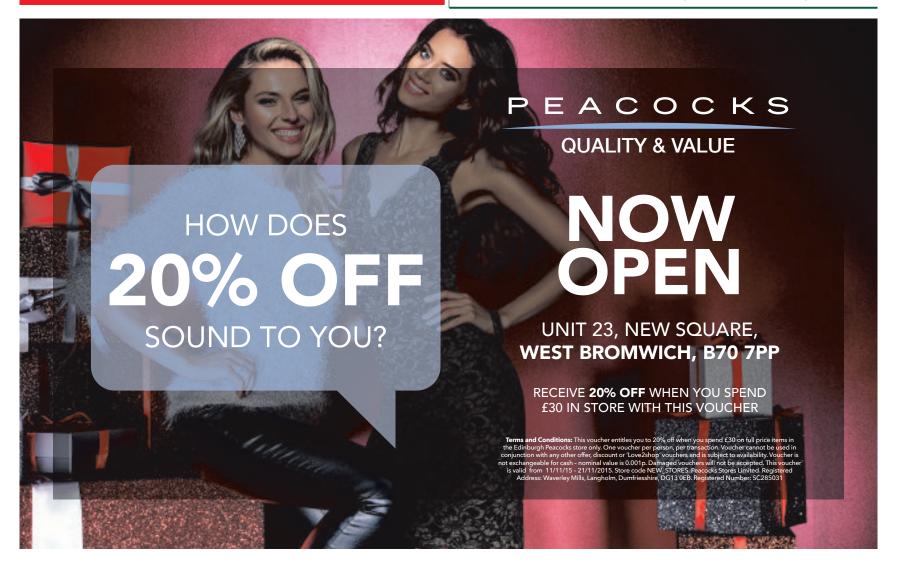
West Midlands Fire Service said West Midlands Fire Service said three adults and two children man-aged to get out of the vehicles by the time crews from Bloxwich and Walsall arrived. Two ambulances were also called to the scene and a 25-year-old woman was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital.

Nobody was thought to have been seriously injured.

A spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service said: "Two cars were in collision at the junction of Stafford Road and Turnberry Road. We were called at about 5.40pm.

"Nobody was trapped. Three adults and two children had exited the vehicles by the time firefighters had arrived. The crews from Bloxwich and Walsall made the scene safe. The recovery of the vehicles was arranged by the owners

"A 25-year-old was taken to Wal-sall Manor Hospital."





Fallings Park station commander Elfyn Edwards receives the cheque off William Gibbons worker Jamie Bird

IT was a huge blaze that engulfed a historic Black Country printing firm and took 50 firefighters several hours to control.

to control.

The William Gibbons site in Planetary Road, Willenhall, went up in flames in the early hours of the morning of November 27 last year, forcing the 130-year-old family-owned business to close down a section of the site for renovation work. One of the company's web presses was completely destroyed, while the night shift had to be evacuated as firefighters battled to control the flames.

In the aftermath of the fire bosses

at the firm praised the actions of West Midlands Fire Service (WMAS), which along with the 50-strong crew sent eight fire engines and a hydraulic platform to tackle the blaze. The firm was so grateful that bosses vowed to raise some funds for WMAS.

This neldee led to web assistant

some funds for WMAS.

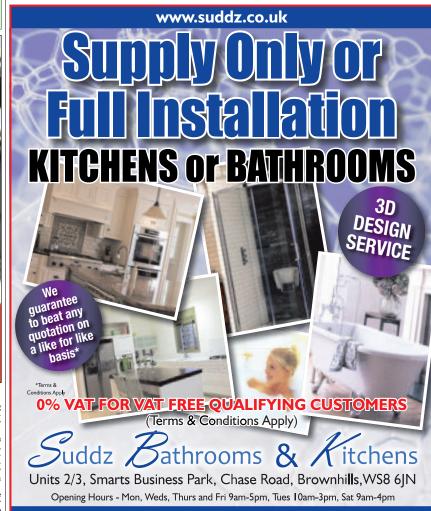
This pledge led to web assistant Jamie Bird collecting sponsorship cash from his colleagues and running the London Marathon earlier this year. "We wanted to show our gratitude to the fire service for their efforts on the night of the fire," said Mr Bird, from Wednesfield. One of our managers knew I was into running marathons

and asked me if I could do something to help. I was planning to run the London Marathon so it seemed a good way to raise the money."

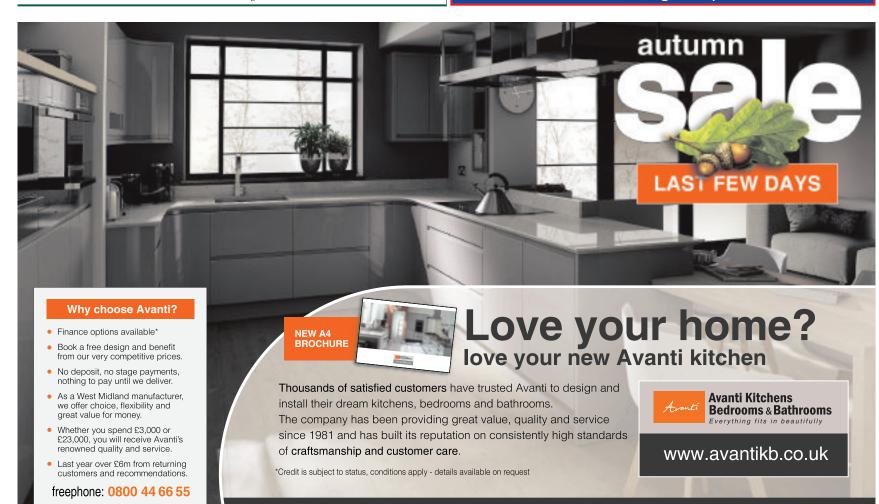
Fitness fanatic Mr Bird, who has run 17 marathons in total this year, collected more than £2,000 from colleagues at the firm, which employs at most 500 staff. The cash was recently handed over to Fallings Park station commander Elfvn Edwards.

most 500 staff. The cash was recently handed over to Fallings Park station commander Elfyn Edwards.

Mr Bird added: "The actions of the fire service on that night saved our jobs. If they hadn't been as quick to act as they were then the whole place could have come down."



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# Sixth of the best at Q3 Academy



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#### COMMERCIAL FEATURE

THE Sixth Form at Q3 Academy is a vibrant and exciting place to learn and

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This year A-level students achieved a pass rate of 100 per cent with the higher A\* - C grades at 74 per cent.

We are proud of our track record

We are proud of our track record of ensuring students move on to employment, training or university, reflecting our drive for no student to be 'left behind'.

However, our work is not just about examination results and employers regularly tell us that 'it is not just what you know that matters but how you are as an individual! dividual'

They say that 'attitudes to work and character' are two of the most important things they look for. At Q3 we firmly believe in a 'rounded and grounded' approach to life and all it entails.

to life and all it entails.

We recognise that education is also about nurturing talent and every young person is encouraged to engage in the wide range of activities on offer at Q3.

We are always looking for opportunities to develop our young people and last year we took part in the 'employabilityuk' pilot.

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el to enhance careers provision. raise aspirations and signpost employment opportunities.

#### Detachment

Post-16 students also benefit from our unique Aspire Programme which helps to prepare them for life beyond Q3.

The academy has its own army cadet detachment which parades on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Once again this is an excellent

Once again, this is an excellent vehicle for developing student leadership and enables engage-



Successful Q3 students celebrating their A level results in the sum-mer, starting from bottom left, Megan Dixon, Ravina Rama, Laura Binsley, Nikita Gaur and Thomas Jordan at the back

ment in a wide range of challenging

activities.

When our young people leave
Q3 Academy we are determined
that they will have the qualities, academic success and interests that
will enable them to enjoy life, and
make a positive contribution to the
society in which they live and as a
result, we have added a range of
new courses to those already on
offer.

The academy prides itself on

The academy prides itself on the quality of support it provides in helping students reach their goals.

Our recipe for success at Q3 has been recognised and we are now planning to launch our second academy in Oldbury, on the former Langley High School site.

The academy will open in September 2016 in a brand new, state of the art building. If you would like to find out more about sixth form provision come along to our Post 16 Evening on Wednesday November 18, from 6.30pm – 8.00pm and meet our students and staff.

They are our greatest ambassa-

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www.q3academy.org.uk

# The Chronicle Thursday, November 12, 2015

## Find the driver who left my son like this



Ashley's mother posted this image, showing his injuries A SCHOOLBOY was thrown 7ft into the air when he A SCHOOLBOY was thrown 7ft into the air when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver in the Black Country prompting an online appeal shared more than 130,000 times. Ashley Barrs was walking in Neachells Lane, Wednesfield, when he was hit on Wednesday evening. A Facebook appeal to trace the driver, posted by his mother, which shows his shocking facial injuries, has now been re-nosted by thousands.

er, which shows his shocking facial injuries, has now been re-posted by thousands.

The 10-year-old was out with his brother Jaden Keates, 12, two friends and aunt Hayley Jackson just before 6pm. His mother Jane Keates said: "They were walking up to a friend's house and had got a football and they were just tapping it to each other on the pavement. It had rolled into the road, Ashley looked both ways and there was no car on the street, the car came from nowhere and hit him."

Ashley was hit in the hip and catapulted into the air, before slamming down and hitting his face on the pavement, with witnesses saying the car was driving at up to 70mph. Jane, 35, from Hart Road and partner Stefan Barrs, a 30-year-old scaffolder, rushed to the scene.

The youngster was taken to New Cross Hospital. Miraculously there were no breaks or fractures.

ulously there were no breaks or fractures

## **Increase in** the costs of temporary health staff

THE cost of temporary health workers at the trust which runs Walsall Manor Hospital increased by £20,000 in a month.

The amount spent on temporary workers at Manor stood at £1.536m in September – up from £1.516 million in August. The increase was mainly due to a rise in temporary medical and nursing staffing costs,

rise in temporary medical and nursing staffing costs, according to a new report to the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust board.

Agency costs increased by a total of £67,000 to £715,000 in September and locum staffing costs rose by £89,000 to £401,000.

But bank staffing costs fell by £136,000 to £401,000.
The report to the trust board said: "Temporary staffing costs increased by £20,000 in September to £1,536,000 (August 12,516,000), mainly due to a rise in temporary medical

£1,516,000), mainly due to a rise in temporary medical and nursing staffing costs."
Costs of temporary staffing have risen since June, when it dropped to the lowest level in more than a year. In August, the cost of temporary health workers had risen £55,000.

In May the cost stood

had risen £55,000.

In May, the cost stood at £1.636m - the highest it has been in the past four months.

Bosses have been taking

faced with increasing costs.

It has been battling a significant rise in emergency admissions over the past two years. Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust dealt with 35,056 emergency inpatients in 2014/15, compared to 34,036 the year before.

In 2012/13, the trust dealt with just 25,184 emergency inpatients, according to the figures published in the trust's annual report.

It was forced to declare a

It was forced to declare a major incident in January due to the demand on resources.



























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## Angela's sweet start as lollipop lady



Patrol warden Angela Shepherd starts her job with, back, from left, Butts Primary school headmistress Angela Hill, Councillor Mohammed Arif, Fenz Nadeem, Joshua Follows, Ellie Nicholls and front, Myah Lyttle

A PRIMARY school has welcomed the

A PRIMARY school has welcomed the arrival of a new lollipop lady following a long-running campaign to find a replacement.

Worried parent Louise Sedgwick organised the campaign to find a crossing warden following an accident outside Butts Primary School, in Teddesley Street, Walsall, in December last year. The child was fortunately unhurt but Mrs Sedgwick recognised the need to find a replacement quickly, after the previous crossing warden had retired due to ill health. New crossing lady Angela Shepherd started her position at the school last week. Headteacher

Angela Hill said: "It is such an impor-

Angela Hill said: "It is such an important job and we welcome our new warden to this vital role."

St Matthews Ward councillor, Mohammed Arif, worked alongside the school to find a replacement. Mrs Hill added: "Councillor Arif has been of great help in helping to expedite the recruitment checking process and keeping the concerned school community updated on the progress at all times." A replacement lollipop warden was originally found in March, but resigned in June.

Speaking on the new appointment of

Speaking on the new appointment of Mrs Shepherd, Councillor Arif, said: "I

am delighted for the school community am derignted for the school community and we welcome Angela. Walsall Coun-cil is always looking for school crossing wardens and I urge people interested to contact our operations manager Bill Gwilt on 01922 652544."

Gwilt on 01922 652544."

In June last year Walsall Council was criticised when proposals were unveiled to stop funding for almost half of school lollipop men and women in a bid to save £85,000 a year. But parents and opposition councillors stepped in over fears that children's lives could be put at risk. The council then announced it was to take on 15 new lolling per and women just months later. pop men and women just months later.



# Open Evening 2015

Tuesday 24 November, 6pm - 8pm

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"Improvements in teaching and students taking more appropriate courses have seen a sharp increase in progress in the Sixth Form."

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In Post 16 we get a private study area, continual access to laptops and computers and regular catch up sessions have helped me to reach my full potential. The Academy is really tailored to meet my individual needs - Lucy Probert Year 13

We are granted more freedom, allowing us to take responsibility for our learning, it provides valuable preparation for later life - **Bradley Round, Year 12** 

I had heard only positive things about the Post 16 at Willenhall and was impressed with the facilities available. It was a decision I would recommend to all students seeking further education in a supportive well-rounded environment - Louis Cattell Year 12

Willenhall Post 16 offers a broad range of subjects, two of my personal favourites are English and Sociology. Passionate and inspiring teachers make the lessons informative and enjoyable - Courtney Flemming - Year 13

As a sixth form student, the level of respect shown by teachers and students around the school is unparalleled - Nishan Sandhu Year 13



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The Chronicle Thursday, November 12, 2015



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## **Aldridge School - An Academy**

## Sixth Form Open Evening Thursday 19th November 2015 at 7pm

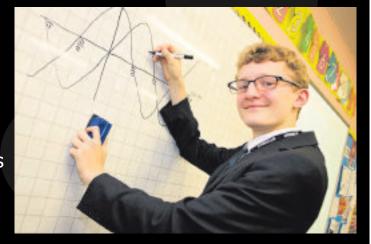


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Mrs R Elton Head of Sixth Form 01922 743988 ext 312 relton@aldridgeschool.org

## Diana statue given fresh look after moss gripes

more than 15 years, this controversial statue of Princess Diana is looking good as new following feedback on social

Once known as the 'Black Diana' statue, the



granite likeness of the People's Princess is now kept outside its creator's shop in Bloxwich. It caught the attention of users

on the Facebook group Walsall in Pictures after it

Now - cleaned up was spotted – hav-ing been given a makeover to lighten

ing been given a makeover to lighten up the figure – covered in moss. Staff at Andrew Walsh Funerals, in Park Road, Bloxwich, quickly re-sponded to the latest feedback and cleaned the now polished princess.

#### Endeavour

Jacey Campbell of Strongs Memorials, which is incorporated into Andrew Walsh Funerals, said: "We are pleased to be able to announce that she has now been cleaned, so that she can once

more be admired by the community.
"Moss build-up will always be an issue with natural carved granite stone but we always endeavour to clean it off as often as we can.
"We hope that nobody has felt she

we nope that nonony has lett so has been neglected as we receive only positive feedback about her."

The granite figure was originally carved in India and was the centrepiece of an exhibition of burial art in May 2000.

But critics took to social media to de-scribe it as 'demonic' and, despite re-



The Diana statue seen after it was first unveiled to the world in 2000

moving the black veneer to give Diana

a more realistic look, she never found a permanent public home.

A ballot revealed that much of Wal-sall wanted to see the statue put on display at the New Art Gallery, but local councillors threw out the bid in

After a string of temporary locations, the statue found a place outside its creators' shop in Bloxwich, where it has stayed ever since, although the passage of time has seen it change col-

our from black, to white, to green.

And while users on Facebook called the statue creepy and compared it to the Weeping Angels - the spooky Doctor Who baddies who disguise



The statue showing signs of age after moss built up, but is now good as new themselves as sculptures - others are

interested in seeing it take a more conspicuous place in the town. Rushall-Shelfield Councillor Richard Worrall said: "I think it deserves prominence somewhere in the bor-

ough, but where it is now is not exactly prominent.
"There was a sort of wave of emo tion at the time, but now that's died

down, it's a bit of okay public art and we don't do too well on public art in Walsall. I think it deserves display.

"At the time I did a consultation and there as a very sizeable majority who wanted it on public display. "It's a waste not to make the most of it."

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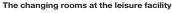
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The sports hall at the leisure centre named after Joel Richards



Duty Manager, Dave Willetts from Hagley







Josie in among the weights at the new centre's gym





#### Gym and fitness instructor Josie Rickards seen with equipment in the spin room Lifequard Tasha Robinson shows Ben Thompson and Indi-Rose Matthews the pool

## Centre up and runni

COSTING £8.1 million and ities, which also include a sports hall featuring a 25-metre pool and learner pool. featuring a 25-metre pool, two dance studios and a 100-station fitness suite, Wednesbury's new leisure centre has arrived.

Members of the public were offered their first glimpse of the glittering complex on High Bullen last week, before it opened for the first time next Monday.

People were able to tour the building and check out its state-of-the-art facil-

and learner pool.

The centre has been named after Joel Richards, the 19-year-old from Wednesbury who died in the Tunisain terror attack, alongside his uncle Adrian Evans and grandfather Patrick

#### Impressed

The modern-looking complex has been built on the same site as the old tired centre and Wednesbury council-lor Bob Lloyd said the town finally had a leisure centre it could be proud of.

He said: "I was really impressed and so was everyone else who was going round. The gym looked great, and the dance studio with its multi-coloured windows.

windows.

"I actually learned to swim in the old leisure centre and from the 70s to now, it is vastly different. It really is a quality building. This is a focal point for the town, and when people talk about what makes a good town leisure centres are always part of that. Now we have this gym, dance studio and sports hall it will be great to get people in there and moving around."

Sandwell Council announced in September that the centre would be named in honour of Joel Richards, who was a football referee and keen sports-

was a totofall referee and keen sports-man, following the tragedy in Tunisia and Councillor Lloyd said it was a fit-ting tribute.

He said: "It is a nice touch for the town to remember Joel, he was really into his sport.

Things like leisure centres don't come along every year, they last for decades. It is something solid and hopefully will act as a reminder for the town."



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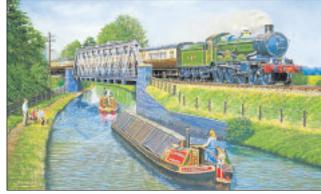
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no' bridge under construction 100 years ago



The coal yard at Newbridge, by the old canal bridge

## bridge gap from end of an era

Western Railway Castle Class locomotive Defiant hauled a passenger train from Tettenhall Station, crossing the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal on the Warren Truss girder bridge.

Always known locally as the Meccano Bridge, it was only 400 yards beyond the station, with private, working narrowboasts hauling loads on the

waterway beneath.
This really was heading towards the end
of an era, because on January 1, 1948 the
railways and the waterways were national-

It was the end of an era in another sense, as the very last flights of any Defiant aircraft, after which the locomotive was named, were made at this time from Pendeford airfield, only half a mile away, where Boulton Paul still used one of two for development and the sense of th

The Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre – based near the canal at the Smestow Valley local nature reserve – discovered that a marvellous painting depicting the historic scene, painted by local artist, Barry Free-man had been made into a 1000 piece jigsaw

Centre puts pieces together to

puzzie.
Immediately they secured a stock for sale in their shop, ready for Christmas, and to publicise it's existence to locals who know the Meccano bridge so well. The Meccano Bridge now carries the Smestow Valley foot/

It was built a hundred years ago to carry what was built as the Wolverhampton to Bridgnorth Railway, though the branch from Wombourne to Bridgnorth was never actually completed.

The next bridge over the canal to the East

was built, along with the canal, in 1772, to

carry the London to Holyhead Road, and alongside that, as at most canal/road junctions in the town, there was a coal yard, on the site of the current MS Centre.

Right next to the 1772 bridge is the New Bridge, carrying Thomas Telford's road below The Rock.

However the bridge carrying the road

nowever the bridge carrying the roau now, is not Telford's bridge, which gave the area its name, because that was knocked down in 1930, along with the Newbridge pub which was built on the end of it, and was replaced with the bridge we have today, a new Newbridge pub being built over the road.

A little nearer the Rock yet another bridge carries the Tettenhall road over the old railway line as well, and yet such is

the design of the main road, many people driving along it each day would struggle to realise what a cluster of bridges there are. The Heritage Centre, at Tettenhall Sta-tion is open every Sunday, and makes a perfect place to explore these local history gems.







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Queen Mary's Combined Cadet Force seen during the Remembrance Day procession





Councillor Angela Underhill places a wreath on the Carless memorial Taking the salute are Army cadets in the Remembrance Day event on Sunday Mercian Regimental Mascot, LCpl Derby XXIX, a pedigree Swaledale ram



## Town centre falls silent

The most poignant words on the most sombre day in Walsall's calendar echoed around the town centre as hundreds attended this year's Remembrance Sunday service.

A soldier on horseback during the procession to the cenotaph in Bradford Place before those present sang hymns accompanied by The Staffordshire and and Members of the Credo Singers. Then The Last Post was sounded followed by a rifle

'AT the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.'

salute by members of the Mercian Regiment to mark the beginning and the end of the two-minute silence. Rev Mark Kinder gave the blessing and the National Anthem was sang.

and the National Anthem was sang.

Mike Bird, the leader of Walsall Council, said: "I tend not to get too emotional but as we were walking back from the cenotaph the public started applauding and that was very emotional.

"It was great to see so many young people there as well."

FROM ONLY

Before the parade got underway the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Angela Underhill, accompa-nied descendants of John Henry Carless to place a wreath on the Carless memorial, Lichfield

Street. Born in the town, Carless was awarded the Victoria Cross in the First World War for "bravery and devotion to duty" which resulted in his death.

On November 17, 1917, at the Second Battle of Heligoland Bight, off the German coast, he was serving on HMS Caledon.

The citation issued when he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross read: "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. Although mortally wounded in the abdomen, he still went on serving the gun at which he was acting as rammer, lifting a projectile and helping to clear away the other casualties."



Members of the Mercian Regiment take part in the procession to the cenotaph

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## Brushing up on projects

COMMUNITY projects in Walsall could be up for a free lick of paint as part of a na-tional competition. Johnstone's Paint has

tional competition. Johnstone's Paint has launched its Community Spirit campaign, which could see projects given a makeover. Richard Mazurkiewicz, spokesman for Johnstone's Paint, said: "After the success of last year's Johnstone's Community Spirit campaign, we are delighted to be offering this fantastic opportunity for charities and community groups in Walsall. "There is no project too small – whether

There is no project too small – whether

it be a rundown scout hut, a school in need of a makeover or a community centre requiring a lick of paint. The only proviso is that the facility or group must provide a community benefit.."

The campaign is being run in conjunction with the Football League Trophy, which will be sponsored by Johnston's Paint for the 10th consecutive season this year. Charities and projects can enter by completing an application form at johnstonespainttro-phy.com/communityspirit

## Firefighters in action threat over jobs axe

plans to axe up to 300 posts, union bosses have warned.

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) says proposed cuts to staffing levels would force West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) to rely on the 'pure goodwill' of fire-fighters to work non-obligatory overtime shifts. It comes after the nationally-agreed overtime rate that firefighters are paid of 'time and a half' has been replaced with a flat rate, making overtime shifts less attractive according to the FBU. Union bosses say the move has increased the likelihood of staff shortages

## Hugh's cycle cash will boost hospice



Senior Staff Nurse Jeanette Castree with Hugh Porter

THIS year's Christmas party at Compton Hospice is set to be a lavish affair thanks to the fundraising exploits of a Wolverhampton cycling legend.

Hugh Porter raised more than £2,700 for the hospice

Hugh Porter raised more than £2,700 for the hospice when he completed the 40 mile Aviva Tour ride through Worcestershire at the start of last month. And part of the cash will go towards ensuring patients at the hospice on Compton Road West have a very merry Christmas.

Compton Hospice spokeswoman Grace Ruston explained: "Hugh has always been a fantastic supporter of the hospice and we are so grateful that he has raised a fantastic amount of money. Part of the cash will be used to put on activities and entertainment for patients at Christmas. Thanks to Hugh this year's party should be a very memorable one indeed."

A portion of funds will pay for specialist equipment for the lymphedema clinic, including garments to help reduce swelling. Mr Porter's exploits will also fund a new laptop.

during some shifts.
As a result, they claim that this puts public safety

that this puts public safety at risk.

FBU bosses say they are currently trialling new staffing arrangements which they insist will have no impact on their ability to

respond to emergency calls. WMAS is facing £14 mil-

WMAS is facing £14 million worth of funding cuts from 2016-19.
Steve Price-Hunt, secretary of the FBU in the West Midlands, said: "Industrial action is always a last resort and we hope it doesn't have to come to that. But we cannot just let these dangerous cuts that could put fire engines out of action go through. through.

"I became a firefighter to serve the public and protect people from harm.

#### Endanger

"That's the case for every firefighter serving in the West Midlands and the rest of the UK. We cannot just stand by and watch plans be implemented that we know will endanger the public."

will endanger the public."
West Midlands Fire Service has said the 300 frefighting posts earmarked to
go will come from 'natural
wastage', meaning firefighters who retire or leave the

job will not be replaced. Mr Price-Hunt added: "Our concern here is all about the safety of the pub-lic and the safety of fire-fighters responding to those

emergencies.

"These proposals leave frefighters without proper shift systems.

"Managers are dangerously gambling on the goodwill of firefighters to fully staff the sortices.

staff the service.

"We hope managers at the fire service will now begin to re-evaluate these ill-thought out plans."

## Man is cut free from crashed car after it careers off motorway

A MAN had to be cut free from his car after it after it crashed down an embankment and hit two trees off the M5 in the Black Country. The motorist, believed to be in his 50s, was trapped for around 45 minutes before being freed through the roof of his car by firefielditers by firefighters.

by firefighters.

Emergency services were called to the northbound carriage of the M5, just past junction one for West Bromwich at 7.30am last Monday. The car left the carriageway and ended up 6ft down an embankment on the side of the motorway. Fire crews from Oldbury and Smethwick and one ambulance from West Midlands Ambulance Service attended the sees.

vice attended the scene.

A paramedic area support officer and

specialist paramedics who deal with dif-ficult rescue bids also attended the scene.

ficult rescue bids also attended the scene. No other cars were involved in the incident. Fire services were present until 9am.
West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith, said: "Crews arrived to find a car that had travelled down

the embankment at the side of the motor-way and the driver trapped inside.
"Ambulance crews assessed the man be-fore working closely with the fire service." to free him, ensuring he was kept as still as possible at all times. He was treated for neck, shoulder and wrist injuries, immobi lised with the use of a neck collar and spinal board and transported to Sandwell Hospital for further assessment."



## Don't go visiting if ill, warns council

COUNCILLORS in Wolverhampton have warned people not to visit public places if they have suffered stomach upsets or flu-like symptoms in the previous four days.

upsets or flu-like symptoms in the previous four days.

The advice is designed to help avoid the spread of the winter vomiting bug or norovirus. The bug is highly contagious, so infected people should minimise contact with other people to prevent its rapid spread.

Councillor Sandra Samuels, cabinet member for public health and wellbeing, said: "Norovirus is highly contagious and can spread rapidly anywhere that people are gathered, such as schools or offices, especially during colder months. So it is very important that people think carefully about going into work or school, or visiting public places like hospitals, if they or anyone in their family has had even mild symptoms of stomach upset which could potentially be caused by norovirus."

People with norovirus usually recover without treat-

People with norovirus usually recover without treat-ment in between 24 and 72 hours. Doctors advise those displaying symptoms not to visit their GP, but to rest at home and take plenty of non-caffeinated drinks to avoid



Mayor, David Cooper at the front, and with, from left, James Gittins from Severn Valley Landscapes, Sarah Yardley from Veritas Therapy, Anne Wilson (Town Clerk), Pauline Harris (Chair of the Christmas Committee)

## Christmas tree going to light the way to town

A 60ft tree will shine out like a bea-con at the gateway to a town this Christmas after businesses clubbed together to pay for it.

A Ginko tree next to the bridge at Quayside, Bridgnorth will be adorned with lights this Christmas after about £3,000 was donated by traders

The money was raised in the space of two weeks by businesses in Bridgnorth following an appeal by town councillors.

Mayor of Bridgnorth, Councillor David Cooper, said: "We agreed that if we could raise the money we would light the last tree on Bridgnorth Quayside. It is very large and it will be viewable from the Eastern side of

for was something that would give that wow factor and this should have that," he said. Blachere Illuminations Ltd will

provide pea and sparkling stars for the height of the tree, while Severn

the height of the tree, while Severn Valley Landscapes Ltd has offered to put up the lights free of charge. Other businesses and organisations involved in the scheme include Specsavers, Peepos, LW Foxall, Severn Valley Railway, Veritas Therapy and Perry & Phillips Funeral Directors.

The fir has been named the Tree of Reflection because its lights will reflect in the river water.

The town's main switch-on will Quayside. It is very large and it will be viewable from the Eastern side of the River Severn, and the main road from Wolverhampton, from the top of Hermitage Hill and The Grove.

"On of the things we were looking"

The town's main switch-on will be viewable from the Eastern side of the town's main switch-on will be viewable from the Eastern side of the Viewable from the University of the Viewable from the Eastern side of the Viewable from the University of the Viewable from the University of the Viewable from the University of the Viewable from the Viewa

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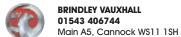
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**Brindley Honda** West Street, Wolverhampton WV10 6HT Father, 92, died after emergency stop by bus

juries suffered when the vehicle made an emergency stop due to children running in the road, an inquest heard.

The son of Joseph James Stockton said the parents of the children were 'ultimately responsible'

At that moment three At that moment three children ran up to the road. One remained on the pavement but two ran into the road, one stopping halfway and the other into the path of the bus, causing it to

make an emergency stop.
As a result of the braking,
Mr Stockton lost his footing,
causing the serious head
and neck injuries that led to
his death two days later at
the Royal Stoke University
Homitel Hospital.

#### Irresponsible

An inquest held by Shrop-

An inquest held by Shrop-shire Coroner John Ellery at Wellington Civic Centre recorded a verdict of acci-dental death.
Following the hearing, his son Michael, 63, said the parents of the children involved should have taken more responsibility to en-sure the children did not put themselves, or others, in harm's way.
Mr Stockton, who lives in Wolverhampton, said: "His

Mr Stockton, who lives in Wolverhampton, said: "His life would have continued for many more years if it had not been cut short by the irresponsible actions of those children, who forced the bus driver to brake sud-denly causing our father to

the bus driver to brake sud-denly, causing our father to fall.

"The parents of these children are ultimately re-sponsible for our father's tragic, untimely, violent death, and all of his family and friends agree that social and friends agree that social services need to take a hard



Joseph James Stockton

like with all of them. We know this will not change events but surely the par-ents have a duty of care to ensure their children are at all times supervised and looked after, to make sure they do not put either their own or other people's lives in danger. I'm not saying they meant to cause harm but as a result, we have lost our father."

our father."

His father was born and raised in Wolverhampton but moved to Telford 30 years ago. His wife Freda died 15 years ago.

He was also a father to 65-year-old Sue and had become a great-grandfather in April of this year.

His son said: "He was extremely fit and exceptionally active for a man of his age, being on no regular medication. He was very proud of tion. He was very proud of being mainly self-sufficient and independent, taking pleasure from looking after his dog, doing most of his own gardening, cooking and cleaning.

cleaning.

"Dad was very popular, well liked and respected having many friends."

## Centre plans change

A day care centre for people with learning difficulties could

be transformed into a supported living unit.

Select Lifestyles wants to make the changes to the former
St John's Parish Hall, St John's Square, Wolverhampton. It is now proposed to convert the building to provide sup-

ported living.
Plans have been submitted to Wolverhampton council.

www.brindley.co.uk

# theticate











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Saturday, 7.30pm Robin 2, Bilston With their own fantastic five-piece band The Real Thing will perform all their hits, plus a medley of classics including tracks such as Celebration and Ladies Night. Visit www.therobin.co.uk

#### **Diversity**



Fri, Sat, Sun, times vary New Alex, B'ham This tour by Britain's Got Talent winners Diversity will see the dance group performing exclusively choreographed routines based on their ITV special Visit www.atgtickets.com

#### Bill Bailey



Wed, Thu, 7pm Civic Hall, W'ton The gap between how we imagine our lives to be and how they really are is the subject of Bill's new show Limboland which hits Wolverhampton next week

#### Thea Gilmore



Wednesday, 8pm Wulfrun Hall, W'ton Thea Gilmore released her latest album Ghosts & Graffiti in May and so far it has proved to be the biggest selling album of her 15 album long

Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

#### POP & ROCK

**The Whispers** Mon - Tue at 8pm - 12am, £30 - £35 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Real Thing Sat at 7.30pm, £23.50 - £25 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Thea Gilmore Wed at 8pm, £24.75 - £30.25 Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Reverend And The Makers Mon at 7pm, £14 Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Sabbotage: Black Sabbath Tribute Sun at 1pm, £8 - £12 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Nitin Sawhney Wed at 7pm, £23.50 The Institute, Digbeth Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Les McKeown's Bay City Rollers Thu at 8.45pm, £19.50 - £21 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Fidlar

Sun at 7pm, £15.50 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Dressed To Kill: KISS Tribute Fri at 7.30pm, £12 - £14 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Jimmy Buckley Sun at 7.30pm, £20 Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock,WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Will Young: Love Revolution Mon at 7.30pm, £35 - £45 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Frank Turner And The Sleeping

Souls
Wed at 7pm, £25
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Vaccines Tue at 7pm, £25 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ, 0870 320 7000

Kelly Clarkson Sat at 6pm, £30.20 - £40.20 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

The Straight Aces Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410 Everything Everything Sat at 7pm, £17.50 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Cherie Currie Tue at 8.30pm, £15 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

The ELO Experience: ELO Tribute
Fri at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Thu at 7pm - 10pm, The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Steve Harley & Cockney Rebel Tue at 7.30pm, £36 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Black Volvo Fri - Sat at 8pm - 1am, The Boars Head, Kidderminster, DY10 1EW. Call 01562 861870

**Buddy Holly And The** Cricketers Fri at 7.30pm, £17.50 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

UK Salutes Frank: Frank Sinatra Tribute Sat at 7.30pm, Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Barry Steele: Roy Orbison Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

The Jellycats Sat - Sun at 8pm - 1am, The Boars Head, Kidderminster, DY10 1EW. Call 01562 861870

The Phonics: The Stereophonics Tribute Fri at 7.30pm, £8 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN, Call 01384 397177

The Quireboys Thu at 7pm, £15 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Sat at 7pm, £19.25 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Pat Travers Band Wed at 7.30pm, £15 - £16 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

The Naked Beatles: Beatles Sat at 7.30pm, £8 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Glitz, Blitz & 70s Hitz Starring Sweet, Mud 2 And The Rubettes 2015 Fri at 8pm - 10pm, £32.50 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Queen Extravaganza: 40th Anniversary Of A Night At The Opera Mon at 8pm - 10.30pm,

Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Are You Experienced?: Jimi Hendrix Tribute Fri at 10pm, £3 - £5 The Grapes, Stafford, ST16 2HZ Call 07989 174631

#### JAZZ & BLUES

Chris Aldridge And Beebe Tue at 8pm, The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.

BabaJack Fri at 7.45pm, £10 - £12 Palace Theatre, Redditch, **B98 8AF** 

Call 0121 200 3030

Call 01527 65203

Blind Boy Paxton Mon at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA. Call 0121 443 4725

Adrian Styles and The Giants The Grapes, Stafford, ST16 2HZ. Call 07989 174631

#### **FOLK & ACOUSTIC**

Foster And Allen Sat at 7.30pm, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Steeleye Span Thu at 7.30pm, £19.50 - £22.50 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Open Mic Night Mon at 8.30pm, Free Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Country Music Night Sun at 8.15pm, £2 The Swan With 2 necks Longdon, WS15 4PN

#### CLASSICAL **OTHER MUSIC**

Maria Schneider Orchestra Thu at 8pm, £10 - £25 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333 Nick Ross Orchestra: Sounds Of The Glenn Miller Era Sun at 7.30pm, Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Central England Ensemble Sun at 7pm, Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

CBSO 2015-16: Tchaikovsky's Fourth Wed at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £43 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £16.50 - £44.50 £16.50 - £44.50 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

The RAF In Concert 2015 Sun at 7.30pm, £19 - £25 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Welsh National Opera: Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street

Thu at 7.15pm, from £11.50 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Welsh National Opera: Orlando Wed at 7.15pm, from £11.50 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Welsh National Opera: I Puritani Tue at 7.15pm, from £11.50 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

#### **THEATRE**

Diversity Fri at 7pm, Sat at 1pm, 7pm, Sun at 1pm, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Shakespeare Schools Festival 2015
Mon at 7pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.

Call 01543 412121

Thu at 7.30pm Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

**Old Haunts** Fri at 7.30pm, Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Glorilla Sat at 7.30pm, Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe Thu at 7pm, £7.50 - £35 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455 Calamity Jane: Redditch Operatic Society Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,

Palace Theatre Redditch B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

The Holy & Horny Farewell Tour Sat at 7.30pm, £10.50 -£12.50

Newhampton Arts Centre Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN. Call 01902 572090

Last Night A DJ Saved My Life Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £17 - £54.14 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Little Match Girl Sat at 2pm, 7pm, £8 - £12 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Hairspray: Bilston Operatic

Hairspray: Bilston Operatic Company Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 - £19 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Dark And Lovely
Fri at 8pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 8pm, £10 - £13 Birmingham Repertory Theatre B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

#### COMEDY

Sean McLoughlin: Whatever It

Takes Fri at 8pm, £11 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Roy Chubby Brown Sat at 7.30pm, £20 - £21 Kidderminster Town Hall, DY10 1DB. 01562 732158

Dara O Briain: Crowd Tickler Fri at 8pm - 10pm, Sat at 8pm -10pm, £23 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Hardeep Singh Kohli: Big Mouth Strikes Again Sat at 8pm, £13 - £14 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Pam Ann: Queen Of The Sky Pam Ann: Queen Of The Thu at 8pm - 10pm, £24.90 - £30.90 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Bill Bailey: Limboland Wed at 7pm, Thu at 7pm, £25 - £28.82 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Comedy 42 Sat at 7.30pm, Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

**Express & Star** 

## Vaccines ready to rock the Civic

MILLION record selling rockers The Vaccines kick-off their biggest UK tour to date with a gig at Wolverhampton

with a gig at Wolverhampton
Civic Hall on Tuesday.

The indie band from London released their third album, English
Graffiti, in May and have recently
released Give Me A Sign as a single
accompanied by a video inspired by
spoof rock documentary Spinal Tap.

The outfit fronted by Southampton-born singer and guitarist Justin
Young have toured the world with
The Rolling Stones, Muse, Arctic
Monkeys and Red Hot Chill Peppers,
and performed at several major festivals over the summer including Glastonbury, Latitude and T in the Park.
This week they are touring Australian
stadia with Mumford And Sons.

Turn up early to catch Lambeth's
raucous Palma Violets, who should
get the Civic warmed up nicely.

Other rigs worth baying the No-

get the Civic warmed up nicely.

get the Civic warmed up nicely.

Other gigs worth braving the November chill for: Liverpool's Cast are back with a new song Baby Blue Eyes and a gig for Britpop connoisseurs at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on Saturday. That's the same night inspired English art pop outfit Everything Everything, featuring the rapid-fire vocals of Jonathan Higgs, are at Brum's O2 Academy.

Former Public Image Ltd bassist Jah Wobble brings his Invaders Of The Heart to the Robin 2 in Bilston tonight (Thu). The same venue hosts Brit soul legends The Real Thing on Saturday, former members of Cap-

Saturday, former members of Cap-tain Beefheart's The Magic Band on Monday and on Tuesday Cheric Currie from US punk legends The Run-



The Vaccines with Palma Violets could be a gig of the year contender

aways. The Cherry Bomb singer is coming to the Black Country venue as part of her first UK tour in 35 years.

And a heads-up to the Tartan Army of 50something former teenyboppers, Les McKeown brings his Bay City Rollers to the Robin 2 next Thursday, A-Lang and Bye Bye Baby. More 70s sensations — drummer Roger Taylor's Queen extravaganza marks 40 years since A Night At The Opera with a sold out gig at Birmingham Town Hall on Monday and Steve Harley brings Cockney Rebel to Symphony Hall on Tuesday



Brainy O'Briain is never boring

DARA O'Briain may have become a household name through Mock The Week, The Apprentice: You're Fired! and Star Gazing Live, but there's nothing he loves more than being in theatres to perform stand-up.

"The other day, I sat in an empty theatre thinking, 'I just love these rooms'. I'm on the board of the Theatres Trust to protect these wonderful buildings. I adore these places. It still gives me such a thrill to walk on stage. When you arrive at an empty theatre, the potential is immense. When the show starts and you hear those waves of laughter in the auditorium, it's a huge rush."

Though his show has toured the UK, when it reaches Birmingham, anything could happen: "I love the fact that you can shape the entire evening by thinking on your feet. It's like walking a tightrope."

A former maths and physics student at Dublin's prestigious Trinity University, Dara mixes comedy with science. He in-

A former maths and physics student at Dublin's prestigious Trinity University, Dara mixes comedy with science. He interviewed Professor Stephen Hawking this year. "His biggest regret was not being able to physically play with his children when they were little. I was happy that he was prepared to be that honest with me. I suppose when you're choosing your words as carefully as he does, why waste them on waffie? "It's great to tackle subjects that are more thought-provoking, but I have this dread that people will go 'Oh Dara's show – there'll be some bit where he bores us with some science thing'. Hopefully by then they're unable to talk because I have beaten them over the head with so much humour." Dara O'Briain is at Birmingham Hippodrome tonight (Thu), tomorrow and Saturday.

#### Hoff on his way with 1980s musical

'It's like walking

a tightrope'

TV legend David Hasselhoff will arrive in Wolverhampton next

I'V legend David Hasselnoit will arrive in Wolverhampton next week as part of the world premiere tour of a new musical.

The former Baywatch and Knight Rider star will be appearing in Last Night A DJ Saved My Life from Tuesday to Saturday, November 21, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

The production opened in Blackpool last month and audiences in Wolverhampton will be among the first to see The Hoff plays Ross, a hedonist DJ who does not realise the disco era is over. While trying to keep up with a younger girlfriend played by Hollyoaks star Kim Tiddy, matters are complicated by the arrival of his teenaged daughter.

#### Gershwin, Brel and Tchaikovsky

THE John Wilson Orchestra are on course to sell out their celebration of the musical genius of George Gershwin at Sympho-ny Hall, Birmingham, tonight (Thu). Movie music maestro Wilson will present Gershwin's greatest hits in sumptuous original film orchestrations.

The music of France will be performed in the CBSO's Friday Night Classics concert La vie en rose, featuring tributes to Edith rose, featuring tributes to lain Piaf and Jacques Brel. Guest singers at Symphony Hall will include Graham Bickley. Tchai-kovsky's Fourth Symphony and Beethoven's Violin Concerto, with Alina Ibragimova, feature in Wednesday's 2.15pm concert.

#### Opera is bringing musical madness

MADNESS descends upon Birmingham Hippodrome next week when Welsh National Op-era's autumn season takes men-tal turmoil as its theme.

tai turmoil as its theme.

WNO explore Madness with a
new production of Bellini's I puritani on Tuesday, which charts
the heroine Elvira's mental disintergration. Linda Richardson sings Elvira and celebrated bel canto tenor Barry Banks sings

Arturo.

Handel's Orlando is performed on Wednesday with musical virtuosity as a metaphor for insanity. Countertenor Lawrence Zazzo is in the lead role and the opera is relocated to London during the Blitz.

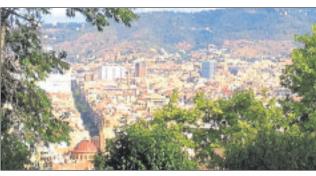


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View of the tree-lined La Rambla from Sants Montjuic

The futuristic tower, Sants Montjuic

## Father-daughter time is out of this world in super sci-fi hotel

typical British summer pastime. But a mini break with dad when you're in your late 40s and he's

My father and I can argue until blue in the face – but a love of sunshine, good food, a bit of architecture, and quite a lot of alco-hol, I've sort of inherited from him.

Barcelona it is then. Dad declares it one

Barcelona it is then. Dad declares it one of his favourite cities and has been there many times.

We're staying at Barceló Sants – a glass box of a hotel, a 20 minute train hop from the city's El Prat airport. The huge hotel is perched on top of the city's main railway station in the Sants district, a couple of miles from the historic centre, but surrounded by an abundance of shows and rounded by an abundance of shops and tavernas. The entrance to the recently-re-

furbished Barceló Sants is out of this world. turbished Barcelo Sants is out of this world. Welcome aboard the 'space hotel' with its curved automatic glass doors, a circular internet hub, and giant images from sci-films high up beyond a wide staircase and gravity-defying mezzanine floor to the Orbital rooms and suites.

Our lovely twin room on the seventh floor overlooks the bustling district below. The restaurant too has a science theme, divided into three areas, the Oxygen buffet, the a-la-carte Hydrogen and chilled-out Nitrogen eafs.

gen cafe.

Dad and I have booked three nights in sci-fi splendour, but head out into the warm July evening, exploring Sants. We chance upon the best paella we've ever tasted and guzzle sangria, before heading back to the hotel's Orbital bar, followed by some seri-

wave-hit Barcelona consist of exploring the sights, both on foot and on the fantastic Barcelona Bus Turistic. These sightseeing buses cover three routes, including the city's architecture-packed centre, taking

city's architecture-packed centre, taking in Antoni Gaudi's organic-style modernism masterpieces including Casa Mila and the still-unfinished Sagrada Familia.

One bus takes us on a route unfamiliar even to dad. It's a delightful ascent along cool winding streets to the Sants Montjuic district where stops along the way give panoramic views of the city below, including its centrepiece – the famous tree-lined La Rambla, and the imposing mountains beyond. Parts of Sants Montjuic were created for the city's hosting of the Olympics in 1992. The stadiums, tracks and pools are still in use, guarded over by a sinuous futurstill in use, guarded over by a sinuous futuristic 136m telecommunications tower. The

ships wait in the harbour.
Dad and I have booked a little boat trip to escape the searing heat. The sightseeing bus stops near the small harbour of Port Olimpic where we meet David, our skip-per for a couple of hours. Our vessel is a simple sailboat which holds no more than six people and the three of us have it all to ourselves. We head out to sea for about half a mile while David gives us a potted history

of the city and of himself.

I get to swim, and dad gets to be captain before David serves up olives and Cava in

before David serves up onves and cava in between steering us back to port. We crammed quite a lot into two days. We didn't get to visit all that Barcelona is famous for, but our galactic hotel, min off-shore adventure and that father-daughter time made sure it was truly memorable.

## **EXTRAVEL London Theatre Breaks**



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Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

#### Theatre Showstopper from £239.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

#### **Coach inclusive breaks – Two days**

Selected weekend departures

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Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability - supplements apply.

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#### CHOICE



#### David Gilmour: Wide (BBC2, 9.45pm)

Not everybody wants to spend their entire lives doing one profession or activity. Even if you happen to be very good at something, and perhaps universally acclaimed for it, it can be useful to take a little time out to recharge your batteries or try a new pastime. It seems that David Gilmour has been doing just that for the past nine years. That's how long the former Pink Floyd guitarist was out of the music business before returning with his fourth solo album, Rattle That Lock which was released in September; a tour to promote it is currently under way. This documentary examines Gilmour's life and career, and he's on hand to give candid insights into the key events that have shaped him

#### BBC<sub>1</sub>

6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Saturday Kitchen Live. 10.45 The Lord Mayor's Show. Live. 10.45 The Lord Mayor's Show. 12. 10 Football Focus. 12. 45 Rugby League. England v New Zealand (Kick-off 1.00pm). 3.10 Formula 1: The Brazilian Grand Prix – Qualifying. The battle for pole at Interlagos in Sao Paulo (Start-time 4.00pm). 5.20 Children in Need 2015: The Best Bits.

6 30 BBC New

- 6.30 Bolowws.
  6.40 Regional Programme.
  6.50 Strictly Come Dancing. The nine cuples step out onto the dance floor once again as the procelebrity dance competition draws closer to its finale. As ever, the stars are hoping to impress judges Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood as well as viewers at home with the carefully plotted routines they have been working on throughout the week. However, there is added pressure this evening, as not only will winning over the panel help the competitors secure a place in the next round, but it will also provide them with a chance to dance at the celebrated Blackpool Tower celebrated Blackpool Tower
- Ballroom next weekend.

  8.15 Doctor Who. Video recovered 15 Dictor Willow Noted recovered from the wreckage of Le Verrier Space Station details how the Doctor and Clara became entangled in a deadly rescue mission. With Recee Shearsmith the ambulance station, forces Alicia to treat a patient in the back to treat a patient in the back.
- Alicia to treat a patient in the back of a van, and Jacob turns vigilante as he tracks the police officer who
- as he tracks the police officer who shot him.

  9.50 The National Lottery Live. Adil Ray, creator and star of Citizen Khan, joins Gaby Roslin for the all-important draws at Lottery HO.

  10.00 BBC News; Weather.

  10.20 MOTD Special: David Beckham's Match for Children. Highlights of UNICET's "match for children" at Old Trafford, which saw David Beckham captain a Great Brian and Feland XI versus a Rest of the World team led by Zinedine Ziddare, National Lottery Update.

  11.00 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. (2003) Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom.

  1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.15

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.15

#### BBC2

6.15 Film: Henry VIII and His Six Wives (1972) 8.15 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand (1972) 8.15 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix — Practice One. 10.05 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix — Practice Two. 11.55 F1 Rewind — Great Results. 12.55 Live Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix — Practice Three. Coverage from Interlagos. 2.05 Film: The Red Shoes. (1948) Powell

- 2.US Him: Ine Red Shoes, (1948) Powell
  and Pressburger's drama, starring Moira
  Shearer. 4.15 Terry and Mason's Great
  Food Trip, (R) 4.45 Escape to He
  Country, (R) 5.30 Flog It! (R)
  6.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down.
  In Stoke-on-Trent, nine potters
  have to make decorative hand
  basins, as well as add a surface design to plain tiles for judges Kate Malone and Keith Brymer Jones. They are also challenged to throw the tallest cylinder they can while blindfolded. Sara Cox presents.
- (R)
  7.30 Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo embarks on a Greek odyssey from the Athens port of Fraeus, north to the city of Thessalonik, exploring the Acropolis and (R) pling moussake and baklava.
- 8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring is determined that all his men should be well-shod and have
- should be well-shod and have battle-worthy feet, so he starts a regimen involving lengthy route marches. (R)

  Ol XL. Stephen Fry invites David Mitchell, Sue Perkins and Sami Shah to join regular panellist Alan Davies as he meanders about some places that start with the letter M.
- 9.45 David Gilmour: Wider Horizons. Documentary offering an intimate portrait of the former Pink Floyd guitarist, as he returns to his solo career after a nine-year break with the release of his fourth album, Rattle that Lock, and an accompanying world tour. The film provides insights into Gilmour's professional and personal life, as he muses on the events that have shaped him as both a person and a
- 11.00 Film: The Last Station. (2009) The private secretary to the ageing Tolstoy is caught up in the conflict over who owns the writer's legacy. Period drama, with James McAvoy, Christopher Plummer and Helen Mirren

12.45 Film: Sergeant Rutledge. (1960) 2.30 This Is BBC Two

Bottom Knocker Street. 6.10
Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.05
Oddbods. (R) 7.10 Sooby. (R) 7.25
Super 4. (R) 7.40 Adventure Time. 8.00
Marvel Avengers Assemble. 8.30
Marvel Avengers Assemble. 8. 6.05 Come Dine with Me. Chris

## action comedy adventure, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar. **5.45** Regional Programme ; Weather. **6.00 ITV News**; Weather.

- 6.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking contestants Annwen Davies, Jamie Walker and Leah Clementsto guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues.
- 7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Dr Christian Jessen, JB Gill, Helen Lederer and Stephen Hendry join forces to take on the Chaser and
- forces to take on the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charfly. Presented by Bradley Walsh.

  8.00 The X Factor. The number of hopeful stars continues to dwindle as more acts are eliminated from the contest. Tonight, Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present as the remaining contestants face their third live show, in which they must once again demonstrate their talent to judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora, in the hopes of surviving another round.

  9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. Real
- 9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show, Real Madrid footballer Cristiano Ronaldo, actress, model and singer Agyness Deyn and former Doctor Who star David Tennant join Jonathan in the studio.

  10.50 ITV News; Weather.

11.10 Euro 2016 Play-Off Highlights.

Richard Henwood presents action from the first-leg matches, including Bosnia-Herzegovina v Republic of Ireland at Bilino Polje Stadium.

11.55 River Monsters. Jeremy Wade visits tourist hot spots in America.
(R)

12.20 Jackpot247. 3.00 Show Me the Telly. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

#### **CHANNEL 4**

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.05 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.05 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.30 River Rat Race Stockton. 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 The Morning Line. 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Cheltenham and Wetherby 4.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.05 Come Dine with Me. (R)

Come Dine with Me. Chris
Sheppard hosts the final dinner
party in Worcestershire,
impressing his guests with his
home-made sweet chilli sauce and
potato towers before the winner is
announced. (R)

announced. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Restoration Man.
Inexperienced developer Gareth
Williams seeks help from George
Clarke as he works to convert a
disused Victorian church in
Llanreithan, Pembrokeshire. With
a tight budget that forces him to
buy supplies from an online
auction site, and a huge amount of
red tape resulting from the
surrounding graveyard, the stress

- red Tape resulting from the surrounding pareyard, the stress begins to take its toll on the builder's family. (R)

  8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin returns to north Cornwall to see one of his favourite Grand Designs, and discover whether Rebecca Sturrock and Gregory Kewish have been successful with their ambitious plans. (R)

  9.00 Film: The Inbetweeners 2. (2014) Premiere. Awkward teenagers
- Film: The Inbetweeners 2. (2014) Premiere. Awward teenagers Will, Simon and Nell find university life does not live up to their expectations, and are insanely jealous of Jay's stories of his gap year in Australia. Heading Down Under to meet their friend, they inevitably discover he has exaggerated his escapades. Comedy sequel, starring Simon Bird, James Buckley, Joe Thomas and Blake Harrison. (2012)

and Blake Harrison.

10.55 Film: American Reunion. (2012)
Comedy sequel to the American
Pie movies, with Jason Biggs and
Alyson Hannigan.

1.05 Fargo. (R) 2.00 Alan Carr: Chatty
Man. (R) 2.55 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.05 Deal
or No Deal: Double Trouble: Siblings
Special. (R) 5.50 Food Unwrapped. (R)

#### **CHANNEL 5**

6.00 Milkshake! 9.00 The Saturday Show, 11.00 Film: Defending Santa. (2013) Festive drama, starring Dean Cain. **12.50 Film**: Trading Christmas (2011) Romantic comedy, starring Faith Ford and Gil Bellows. **2.35 Film:** Farewell Mr Kringle. (2010) Christmas drama, with Christine Taylor. **4.20 Film:** Dear Santa. (2011) Romantic comedy, starring Amy Acker and David Haydn-

#### 6.05 5 News Weekend.

b.Us o News Weekend.
6.10 Film: Kelly's Heroes. (1970) A rebellious American soldier righting in occupied France learns from a captive German officer the whereabouts of a fortune in Nazi gold. Recruiting the aid of three fellow soldiers, he puts together a daring plan to penetrate enemy lines to oct their hands on the lines to get their hands on the bullion. Second World War adventure, starring Clint Eastwood, Telly Savalas, Donald Sutherland, Don Rickles and Harry Dean Stanton, Edited for language

## 9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the extenued nignlights of the weekend's top matches, including Gillingham v Bury at Priestfield Stadium and Rochdale v Wigan Athletic at Spotland in League One. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers.

10.00 Live Championship Boxing. Nick Blackwell v Elliott Matthews. Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the bout for the British Middleweight title, which takes place at the City Academy in Bristol.

nile, wimch alease place at time chily Academy in Bristol.

12.00 Ben Fogls: New Lives in the UK. Ben Fogle meets people who have escaped the rat race for a more rewarding life elsewhere in the UK, beginning with a London family who moved to rural Devon. (R) 12.55 The Gadget Show. Jon looks at the world of 3D printing, Ortis struggles through a gore-filled maze of zombies, and Jason delves in the world of future gaming at Abertay University in Dundee. (R) 1.50 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chaff from the presenting team. 3.10 Shark Attack. Feeding Frenzy. An unusually aggressive shark in Florida. (R) 4.00 Big. Bigger, Biggers: The Tallest Towers. The Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur. (R) 4.50 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Lumpur. (R) 4.50 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)

#### **DIGITAL**

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride 8.00 Top Gear
9.00 Film: Blades of Glory (2007) 10.30
Russell Howard's Good News 11.00
Family Guy 1.15 Josh 1.45 The Fear 2.15
Together 3.45 Great Movie Mistakes V:
Revenge of the Fifth 4.00 Close

#### BBC Four

BBC Four 7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger 8.00 Horizon: The Core 9.00 Arne Dahi 11.00 Rod Stewart at the BBC 12.00 Rod Stewart Live at Hyde Park 1.00 Top of the Pops 1977: Big Hits 2.00 Singer-Songwriters at the BBC 3.00 Lost Land of the Tiger 4.00 Close

## ITV2 11.15 Tricked 12.15 Scorpion 1.15 I'm a Celeb: Junglicious Moments 2.15 Funniest Ever You've Been Framedl 3.15 You've Been Framedl 3.15 You've Been Framedl 3.15 You've Been Framedl 3.50 Celebrity Catchphrase 4.50 Film: Nim's Island (2008) 6.45 Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) 9.00 Film: 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003) 1.10 Celebrity Julice 11.55 Release the Hounds 1.00 Tricked 1.55 Crazy Beaches 2.15 Totally Ronkers Guinness World 2.15 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.30 Animal Practice 2.55 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

2.45 A Touch of Frost 2.50 Agatha
Christie's Marple 4.50 Film: Columbo:
Troubled Waters (1975) 6.55 Doc Martin
8.00 Midsomer Murders 10.00 Lewis
12.05 A Touch of Frost 2.00 ITV3
Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4

12.10 World Rally Championship
Highlights 12.45 Snooker: Champion of
Champions Live. Day five from the Ricoh
Arena, Coventry 5.15 Pawn Stars 5.45
Storage Wars: Texas 6.45 Snooker:
Champion of Champions Live 11.15
Film: Death Race (2008) 1.25 The Big
Fish Off 2.30 Nitro Circus 2.55 TV4
Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping
F4

E4
11.35 The Goldbergs 12.30 Melissa & Joey 1.30 How I Met Your Mother 2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 3.00 The Goldbergs 4.00 Film: The Spy Next Door (2010) 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Transporter 3 (2008) 11.05 The Inbetweeners 10p 10 Moments 12.05 Gogglebox 2.15 The Inbetweeners 3.10 The IT Crowd 4.05 How I Met Your Mother 4.25 Revenge 5.10 Rules of Engagement Film 4.

11.00 My Neighbour Totoro (1988) 1.00 5.00 Catch That Kid (2004) 6.45 Starman (1984) 9.00 Legion (2010) 11.00 Machete Kills (2013) 1.10 Shaolin Soccer (2001) 3.30 Close

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#### CHOICE



**Monty Don** 

#### The Secret History of the British Garden

With Alan Titchmarsh seemingly concentrating on ITV and Channel 4 projects these days. Monty Don is now the go-to man for the Beeb's gardening programmes. His latest series broadcast in four parts examines how British horticultural havens have changed during the past 400 years. He begins by hopping back in time to the 17th century. something that proves to be quite easy – the garden at Levens Hall in Cumbria, where Don kicks off his tour, is the only one in the country that has barely changed since the 1600s. But, thanks to archaeological evidence and a photograph taken by a Luftwaffe pilot, he also unearths evidence of a lost garden and a hidden message

#### BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 8.20 MOTD Special: David Beckham's Match for Children. (R) David Beckham's Match for Children. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 1.45 Songs of Praise. 2.20 The Hunt. (R) 3.20 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix.

6 OO BBC News

 BBC News.
 10 Regional Programme.
 20 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison reports on new farming developments in Frome, Somerset and samples some of the local produce. Plus, a look back at some memorable moments from past series.
Including Weather For The Week
Ahead.

Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's show, before the two lowest scoring couples compete in a dance-off to avoid elimination from the contest

Antiques Roadshow, Flona Bruce presents the show from Walmer castle, Kent, where finds include a rare pottery piglet, a revolving table with secret compartments, and a British PoW's diary.

9.00 The Hunt. The challenges predators face finding and catching prey in a forest, featuring footage of tigers, pine martens, sparrowhawks, eagles and chimpanzees. Narrated by David Attenborough.

10 OO BBC News

10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes tries to persuade the health visitor Grandad is in need of respite care – so she can go on holiday – and receives ominous news from health the greate from health of the program of the progr beyond the grave from her late husband. (R) 11.00 Room 101 – Extra Storage. Frank

Skinner invites comedienne Sue Perkins, Strictly Come Dancing judge Bruno Tonioli and TV host Steve Jones to discuss their pet hates. Last in the series. (R)

nates. Last in the series. (H)

1.40 The Apprentice. The candidates
travel to a south London builder's
yard, where Lord Sugar challenges
them to set up and run and
handyman business with the
winning team generating the most
money. (B)

12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.

#### RRC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R)
7.00 The Big Allotment Challenge. (R)
8.00 Countryfile. (R) 9.00 An Island
Parish: Falklands. (R) 9.30 Saturday
Kitchen Best Bites. 11.00 Simply Niglen
(R) 11.30 Wy Life on a Plate. (R) 12.15
My Life on a Plate. (R) 1.00 Terry and
Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) 1.30 Terry
and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) 2.00
Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. 5.00
Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. (R)
6.00 Are Our Kids Tound Enough?

6.00 Are Our Kids Tough Enough?
Chinese School. Five teachers
from China take over the education
of 50 teenagers in a Hampshire
school to see whether the Chinese
education system can work in the
UK. (R)

7.00 Caribbean with Simon Reeve Simon visits Nicaragua and Honduras on the last leg of his journey, before finishing by

journey, before finishing by spending time with young Jamaicans who have rejected gang life. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish. Ben Fogle takes the three finalists to Zambia for the last challenge, where they must fish on the river Zambzei, competing for a catch with the local wildlife. Last in the series.

the series.
9.00 The Secret History of the British Garden. New series. Monty Don examines how British gardens have changed over time. The first episode focuses on the 17th century, with a visit to the only surviving garden from the 1600s.

10.00 Family Guy. Peter prepares for a fight with Liam Neeson, while Loi becomes a class helper and pays on, while I ois more attention to the other children than she does to Stewie

Children than site dues to stems.

10.25 Family Guy. Peter, Quagmire and Joe take a trip to Canada on a private jet, which crashes into the wilderness. Stranded in the wilderness for two months, Peter becomes feral becomes feral.

10.45 Family Guy. Stewie's beloved teddy bear Rupert gets recalled, and he will stop at nothing to get him hea!

11.05 Film: Cosmopolis. (2012) A billionaire driving across Manhattan has a series of strange encounters as he faces financial ruin. David Cronenberg's drama, with Robert Pattinson and Juliette

12.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 1.45 Holby City. (R) 2.45 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Bottom b.uu cl IV: Bottom Anocker Street. (8) 6.25 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.30 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.05 Oddbods. (R) 7.10 Sooty. (R) 7.25 Oddbods. (R) 7.10 Sooty. (R) 7.25 Super 4. (R) 7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles. 8.00 Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) 8.30 Fish Hooks. 9.00 Horrible Science. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 TIV Mews; Weather. 11.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.30 Catchphrase. (R) 2.40 Catchphrase. (R) 2.40 Catchphrase. (R) 2.40 The X Factor. (R) 4.30 The Nation's Favourite Beatles Number One. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

1.30 Hegional Programme; weather.
 4.45 ITV News; Weather.
 7.00 Jekyll and Hyde. Robert tries to find a cure for Maggie's condition which leads Garson to make a discovery about the Jekyll curse. Dance makes Robert a tempting offer in return for his help.

ofter in return for his neip.

8.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs reveal the results of last night's live show, before the two lowest scoring contestants compete in a sing-off to decide who gets eliminated.

9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! New series. Ant and Dec Heref New series. Ant and Dec present the celebrity survival challenge, which returns for a 15th series. Another batch of famous faces are packed off to the Australian jungle, although the unlucky contestants have not been identified at the time of going to press. There could be an unpleasant versies in serveral tenths to the servers of the tenths of the servers of the tenths of the servers of the tenths of the servers of surprise in store for them this time, as the gruelling tasks get started as soon as they arrive. The first episode will give viewers the chance to vote for who must face the first of this year's stomach-churning Bushtucker Trials.

10.50 ITV News; Weather

11.10 Off Their Rockers. Mo embraces modern fashion, Tony reveals a saucy secret and Royston shares his strange inventions, as the irreverent hidden-camera show continues. (R)

11.40 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants wo

presents as four contestants work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser. (R)

Jackpot247, 3.00 Motorsport UK. 3.50 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jerer Kyle Show. (R)

#### **CHANNEL 4**

6.15 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 6.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.05 Chasing Perfection. 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Cheltenham 3.00 The Simpsons. (R) 3.30 Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader. (2010) Fantasy adventure, with Georgie Henley and Skandar Keynes. **5.40** Channel 4 News.

6.00 Small Animal Hospital. One-off episode in which John Barrowma reports on a black Labrador who collapsed suddenly, a cocker spaniel with a potentially fatal disease, and a terrier with cancer of the jaw.

of the jaw.

7.00 Restoring Britain's Landmarks.
The restoration of St Edward's
Presbytery begins, a Grade I
masterpiece which was designed
and owned by architect Augustus
Pugin. Alastair Dick-Cleland Pugin. Alastair Dick-Cleland oversees the recreation of an oriel window which was destroyed in the 1950s, while at Belmont House, John Evetts calls upon craftspeople to ensure it is ready for its first paying guests. Plus, Anna Keay learns about the secret technique which holds Astley Castle troether (R).

stle together. (R) 8.00 Million Pound Mega Yachts.
Documentary about the Monaco
Yacht Show, in which over 100 of
the largest yachts on the water are
up for sale, with billionaire buyers competing to own the most extravagant vessels.

9.00 Homeland. Saul decides to order a sweep at the station. Meanwhile, a beleaguered Carrie looks to During for some much-needed support. Thriller following a team of CIA agents, starring Claire Danes and Mandy Patinkin.

Danes and Mandy Patinkin.

10.56 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

11.10 Film: Man on a Ledge. (2012) An escaped convict threatens to jump from a skyscraper, while his brother carries out a plan of his own in the ensuing chaps. Thriller.

own in the ensuing chaos. Thriller, starring Sam Worthington and Jamie Bell.

Jamie Beil.

1.10 Grand Designs Australia. 2.05
Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R)
3.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.55
Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R)
5.05 Location, Location, Location. (A)

#### **CHANNEL 5**

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05
Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.20 Angelina
Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Bob the Builder. (R)
6.45 Tickely Toc. (R) 6.55 Zeak and
Quack. (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Custard
Ouack. (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Custard
Toc. (R) 7.15 Make Way for Noddy. (R)
7.25 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.40 Little Princess
(R) 7.55 Pio Alboyl. (R) 8.05 Blaze and
the Monster Machines. 8.35 Ben and
Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.50 Wanda
and the Alien. (R) 9.00 Toby's Travelling
Circus. (R) 9.15 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.30
Lazy Town. (R) 10.00 Teenage Mutant
Ninja Turtles. 10.35 Football League
Tonight. (R) 11.35 Police Interceptors.
(R) 12.35 Film: My Santa. (2013)
Dargan, Satarnias Samatel Amstronger (k) 12.35 Film: My Santa, (2013) Drama, starring Samaire Armstrong, 2.15 Film: A Farlytale Christmas. (2013) Romantic drama, starring C Thomas Howell and Haylie Duff. 4.00 Film: The Christmas Secret. (2014) Drama, starring Bethany Joy Lenz. 5.40 Film: Christmas with the Kranks. (2004) Festive conedy, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Tim Allen.

Curtis and Tim Allen.
7.30 5 News Weekend.
7.35 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops.
Comedy clip show featuring
pranks gone wrong, unwise acts
and failed attempts of misplaced
ambiting ambition.

8.00 Impractical Jokers US. The guys Impractical Jokers US. The guys teach a karate class, pose as newspaper reporters, steal from people's shopping baskets and take a massage chair into the street to offer free neck and head rubs.

8.30 Impractical Jokers US. The guys steal food from customers' plates in a restaurant and try to teach languages they cannot speak.

9.00 Film: Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters. (2013) The fairytale brother and sister grow up to be renowned witch hunters, using advanced weaponry to battle the supernatural. Their latest case leads to an encounter with a powerful sorceress. Fantasy adventure, with Gemma Arterton and Jeremy Renner.

adventure, with Gemma Arteron and Jeremy Renner.

10.45 Film: Killer Elitle. (2011) A former secret agent takes on one last mission to save his mentor, but assassins are sent to stop him. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham, Clive Owen and Robert De Niro.

12.50 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)
1.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Eamonn & Ruth: How the Other Half Lives. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R)
5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)

#### **DIGITAL**

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix Highlights
8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Russell Howard's Good
News 9:30 Film: Xidulthood (2005) 11.05
Family Guy 11.50 American Dad 11 2.15 Family
Guy 12.35 Rent a Cop 1.05 The Rise of Female
Violence 2.00 Russell Howard's Good News
2.30 Together 4.00 Close

BBC Four
7.00 The Faritylale Castles of King Ludwig II with Dan Cruickshank 8.00 Mark Lawson Talks To David Hare 9.00 on Stage: Live from Television Centre 11.00 Blood and Glitter. 70 Years of the Citizens Theatre 12.00 Lost Land of the Tiger 1.00 Ellost Land of the Tiger 1.00 Ellost Light Stage 1.00 Lost Land of the Tiger 1.00 Ellost Lord Ellost Days of British Motorbikes 2.00 Plastic: How It Works 3.00 Mark Lawson Talks To David Hare 4.00 Close

ITV2

11.05 The X Factor 12.55 I'm a Celeb: Stars of Oz 2.00 I'm a Celeb: Epic Trials 3.00 Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) 4.55 Film: Mix Congenially 2.45 Film: Mix Congenially 2.45 Film: Mix Carmed and Fabulous (2005) 7.10 Film: Bean (1997) 9.00 The Xtra Factor 10.05 Funiniset Ever You've Been Framed 10.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! 11.55 Film: Almost Married (2014) 1.50 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.15 Talesbooking 5.45 II/V Mixther grape. Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscre

TV3

11.40 Wycliffe 12.50 Film: Columbo: Troubled Waters (1975) 2.50 Agatha Christle's Marple 4.55 Midsomer Murders 6.55 Sunday Might at the Palladium 7.55 Fy Ryola Appointment 9.00 Agatha Christle's Marple 11.00 Film: Changeling (2008) 1.45 The John Thaw Story 2.40 Wycliffe 3.35 Movies Now 3.40 TV3 Nightscreen 4.00 Emmerdale TV4

11.15 MotoGP Highlights 12.15 World Rally Championship Highlights 12.45 Snooker: Champion of Champions Live. 5.15 Pawn Stars 5.45 Storage Wars 6.45 Snooker: Champion of Champions Live. 11.15 Film: Mickey Blue Eyes (1999) 1.20 Jimmy White: Sports Life Stories 2.25 Nitro Circus 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

E4
12.35 Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) 2.30
Couples Come Dine with Me 4.35 Rude(sh)
Tube Shorts 4.50 The Big Bang Theory 7.15
Film: Men in Black II (2002) 9.00 The Big Bang
Theory 10.00 The Inbetweeners 11.00 The IT
Crowd 12.15 First Dates 1.20 Drifters 1.50
Chewing Gum 226 Rules of Engagement 3.00
How I Met Your Mother 3.20 Hollyoaks

11.00 Anastasia (1997) 1.00 St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) 3.05 Napoleon Dynamite (2004) 4.55 Big (1988) 7.00 Run Fat Boy Run (2007) 9.00 Independence Day (1996) 11.45 The X Files: I Want to Believe (2008) 1.50 Down to the Bone (2004) 4.00 Close

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#### **FILM CHOICES**

Meet the Parents, BBC1, 10,45pm

A male nurse delays proposing to his girlfriend until he has won the approval of her strict father, a former CIA agent who does not suffer fools gladly, and vows to be on his best behaviour during a visit to her family home. However, his efforts to impress soon collapse into a catalogue of disasters. Comedy, starring Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson, (2000)

#### TUESDAY

The Invisible, BBC1, 12.05am

A teenager attacked and left for dead is left hovering between life and death, and tries to persuade his assailant to confess. Thriller, with Justin Chatwin and Marcia Gay Harden. (2007)

#### WEDNESDAY

Oranges and Sunshine, BBC1, 11.35pm

A social worker discovers that, over several decades thousands of British children have been falsely informed their parents are dead and been forcibly sent to care homes in Australia, where they suffered terrible abuse. She devotes herself to exposing the scandal and helping the victims to find their families. Fact-



The Wild Geese, Channel 5, 10pm
A corporation hoping to bring about the downfall of an African dictator hires a group of British mercenaries to free a political prisoner dangerous to the regime. However, when the company changes its plans and makes a deal with the tyrant, the soldiers and the man they have saved are left surrounded by hostile military forces with no escape route. Action adventure, starring Richard Burton and Roger Moore. (1978)

The Eiger Sanction, ITV, 11.15pm

An art professor who once worked as an assassin is blackmailed into returning to his old career to eliminate a spy. However, his target is in the middle of a mountaineering expedition, forcing the hitman to embark on a perilous climb up the Eiger in hot pursuit. Action adventure, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With George Kennedy. (1975)

## **Celebrities get ready** to face their fears

The dark nights are drawing in, and most of us would love the chance to get away for a few weeks, leave the autumn chill behind and find some sunshine.

So how does a fortnight in the Australian jungle sound?

Actually, second thoughts – don't go there!

As well as the bugs, snakes and other creepy crawlies, you will most likely bump into some highly-strung reality TV stars arguing over a grain of rice or eating fish eyes seasoned with termilee.

Yes, it's that time of year again folks, so hold on to your cork hats as I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Herel is back and promising to be as good as, if not better, than ever.

If the rumours are to be believed, this year is going to be even tougher for the stars.

A whole host of new Bushtucker trials have been revealed, including Sun Scream, which involves contestants smearing gruesome concoctions, including bugs and fish guts, over each others' skin. works like a normal limbo, but as the celebrities bend under the cane, they have to have 10 sheep testicles

dangled in their mouths. The food in the eating challenges has apparently stepped up a notch as well, with dishes of the day including duck feet, cow lips, bush pig semen, camel penis porridge, boiled sheep testicles and rat tail soup.

It may only feel like only yesterday that Gemma Collins was crying mascara stained tears while complaining of contracting malaria and Carl Fogarty was being crowned King of the Jungle.

However, the rumour mill has gone into overdrive, as members of the public (and bookies) attempt to guess who will flying out to the Land of Oz.

Labour MP Simon Danczuk, athlete Iwan Thomas, TV chef Rustie Lee, choreographer Brian Friedman, X Factor reject Chloe Mafia, Emmerdale actress Gemma Oaten, and TV personality and retired athlete Caitlyn Jenner (formerly Bruce Jenner) are

about.

It has also been reported by one newspaper that Watchdog and The Weakest Link host Anne Robinson has been offered PSO,000 to take part, while glamour model Katle Price, who has already appeared twice on the ITV show, in 2004 and 2009, is fancied to make it a jungle hat-trick jungle hat-trick.

But arguably the most interesting name rumoured to be making an appearance is... Paul Gascoigne.

appearance is... Faul dascolgine.

Gazza is one of the finest footballers this country has ever produced, but has more recently tended to hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons, mainly due to his battle with the bottle and turbulent love life.

and turbulent love life.

Two stars who definitely won't be eating witchethy grubs this year though are Gazza's fellow Geordies Ant and Dec, who quickly shot down any rumours that they would become contestants for the first time.

Dec replied to a fan on Twitter with the words Absolutely NO chance.
Zero. Zip. Nada. None. Nope. Stop it."



I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!, Sunday, ITV, 9pm

## **BEST OF THE REST**

#### MONDAY Simply Nigella

BBC2, 8,30pm

Food writer Nigella Lawson demonstrates dishes that combine the comfort of the familiar with the excitement of the new, including fluffy oat pancakes drizzled with a raspberry and honey syrup. She offers a twist on a classic Caesar salad for a light lunch idea, and rustles up a Greek-inspired supper for friends including squid and orzo pasta, and a sweet and savoury version of a cheesecake.

Nigella's simple rice bowl with ginger, radish and avocado celebrates a few choice ingredients and results in a dish that's uplifting to look at, as well as

#### TUESDAY Live International Football ITV. 730pm

England v France (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the friendly encounter at Wembley Stadium, as the Three Lions take on the hosts of next year's European Championship, Roy Hodgson's men came through an admittedly favourable qualifying group with 10 wins out of 10 – the only country to finish with a 100 per cent record. The French didn't need to qualify for the tournament, so they will see this match as an important step toward their

preparations for the summer. Head coach Didier Deschamps captained the team that won the trophy in 2000, two years after lifting the World Cup on home soil, and his already legendary status could be cemented if he leads the current squad to victory at the Stade de France in July. Mark Pougatch presents, with analysis from Paul Scholes, Lee Dixon and lan Wright.

#### WEDNESDAY Toast of London Channel 4, 10,30pm

New series. Live on chat show Lorriane, Stever tells a tale that could topple the US government and destroy the entire world, while Jane tries to evade the men in black Plus Toast is overcome with a debilitating bout of stage fright when he discovers an outdoor performance of The Scottish Play, directed by acclaimed theatrical director Peggy Plywood, will be broadcast live on ITV. Although Ed and Mrs P are on hand to help, it may take someone with more gusto to shake him out of it. Matt Berry stars. Doctor in the House, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm race for a more

#### THURSDAY Doctor in the House BBC1, 9pm

New series. Families worried about their health invite a GP to move in and investigate their lives in the hope he can transform their lifestyles and ensure their future wellbeing. First up is

48-year-old working mother Priti, who is struggling with stress, headaches, weight gain and disrupted sleep. Dr Rangan Chatterjee moves in to monitor the situation - and soon realises it is actually her partner, 49-year-old Sandeep, whose health is more at risk. The doctor draws up a

plan of lifestyle changes before they are measured on how much of an impact the resident medic has had on their health.

> Ben Foale: New Lives in the UK Channel 5, 9pm Ben Fogle meets people who have escaped the rat

rewarding life elsewhere in the UK. This week he travels to Wales to meet 61-year-old Emma Orbach, who abandoned 'modern' Britain, her family home and even her marriage to live in a mud hut deep in the countryside, where she spurns all forms of technology and convenience. Unfortunately, her hut burned down last year, so Ben helps build a new one while also helping to collect wood, washing in the river and enjoying her only luxury - a home

#### FRIDAY Adele at the BBC BBC1, 8.30pm

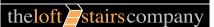
Much of the narrative surrounding the launch of Adele's latest single, Hello, has focused on her use of a hilariously outdated flip-phone in the accompanying video. However the fact that there is such a narrative is testament to the singersongwriter's popularity. Do you think anyone other than his network provider cares what phone Steve Brookstein uses? Yes, with Hello dialling in first-week sales of 333,000 (A three-year UK record), the Tottenham songstress is a big deal. This special one-off performance, then, which sees her take the stage with her full band as well as chatting to host Graham Norton, is well worth catching – especially since it's her first television performance since February 2013.

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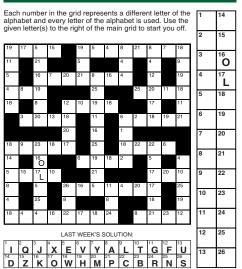
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Thinking space

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No.351

#### Codeword



#### **Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

#### Cryptic Clues:

- 1. Crucial examination for detective force appearing in a trial
- (4,4) 5. Got back a
- 5. Got back a classical piece of attire (4)
  9. More than one mischief-maker is surrounding the politician (4)
  10. Try a seal for old
- time's sake (4.4) 11. A publication for the family (5)
- the family (5)
  12. Steelworks
  discovered near
  the railway (7)
  13. Fails to keep calm
  and gets axed
  (5,4,4)
  18. Being warlike,
  I fired in army
- manoeuvre (8) 19. A style on holiday
- (4) 20. One isn't upset by
- 20. One isn't upset by stress (7)
  21. See 2 Down
  22. Did artistic work and proved an attraction (4)
  23. Dreadfully enraged by eastern apostate (8)

- 2 & 21Ac. Makes an appearance, as the moth invariably does (5.2.5)
- 3. Being positioned in the wrong side will produce argument
- 4. It provides an opening for employees (5,8)
  6. Description of late train should have been settled (7)
  7. Equipped for an attack, we hear (7)
  8. Bends down, we hear, for the water vessels (6)
- vessels (6)

  13. Restricted cover round small child
- 14. Lack of sound selenic arrangement (7) 15. Fixed offence
- against the church becomes prevalent (4.2) 16. Being informed
- about judicial proceedings (7) 17. In a wicked setti
- she is put to shame (7)

#### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- 1. Tip (8)
- 5. Expensive (4) **9.** Too (4)
- 10. Haughty (8)
- 11. Greater (5)
- 12. Excursionist (7) 13. Somersaulting (4,4,5)
- 18. Pastoral (8)
- 19. Select (4)
- **20.** Toil (7)
- 21. Intended (5)
- 22. Notch (4) 23. Helped (8)
- 2. Set free (7)
- 3. Double (3-4)

Down

- 4. Reverse fortunes (4,3,6)
- 6. Pattern (7) 7. Profits (7)
- 8. Refinement (6)
- 13. Encourage (7)
- 14. Antiquated (7) 15. Painful experience (6)
- 16. Utter (7)
- 17. Authorise (7)

#### Sudoku

			3	4		5		
	6				8		9	3
3		7			1	6		
5		1				4		2
				6	2			
2		6				9		8
		9	1			2		
1	2		5				7	
		4		2	3			9

Fill in the grid below so that every column every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Pawned; 4 Coffer; 9 All for nothing; 10 Extreme; 11 Occur; 12 Board; 14 Penny; 18 Might; 19 Replica; 21 After a fashion; 22 Refuse; 23 Meaner. Down: 1 Places; 2 Well thought of; 3 Erode; 5 Outcome; 6 Fair condition; 7 Regard; 8 Andes; 13 Reoris; 15 Impair; 16 Drift; 17 Banner; 20 Paste. OUICK - Across: 1 Repeat; 4 Morass; 9 Unrepresented; 10 Dangled; 11 Atone; 12 Shape; 14 Merit; 18 Enter; 19 Travall; 21 Incarceration; 22 Delays; 23 Recess. Down: 1 Rounds; 2 Parenthetical; 3 Appat; 5 Overawe; 6 Authoritative; 7 Sudden; 8 Ready; 13 Portray; 15 Behind; 16 Steer; 17 Flanks; 20 Awake.

#### Quiz

- How many U.S. presidents have been called Adams?
- Who wrote Love and Mr. Lewisham? In what year was the Turner wing in the London Tate Gallery opened?
- Between what years was the Spanish Civil War fought?
- What was the seventh month of the Old Roman calendar?
- 7. What is ambergris?
- 8. What is the atomic number of carbon?
- 9. Who do you associate with the phrase 'Cogito, ergo sum'?
- 10. What was William Cody better known

#### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 John Selwyn Gummer: 2 The

Balearic Islands; 3 Breadfruit; 4 1949;

5 Cana: 6 1976: 7 Aldo Moro:

8 James Boswell; 9 Denmark; 10 Zambia

#### Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters

> **762123** gives a sailor, **435238** gives a child, **5998123** gives a servant.

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amily Bathrrom.

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BIRCHES RISE, WILLENHALL Three Bed Mid Tow

House. Comprises

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D/G, G/C/H.

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#### WILLENHALL



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THE CRESCENT.

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ront Entrance Doo

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Bathroom With

Shower, Both Flats

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Garden.

Dinina Room.

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ABERFORD CL,

ded Three Bed Detached Having Entrance orch, Hallway, Spacious Lounge Dining Room, Extended Kitchen onservatory, Shower Room D/G, C/H, Garage &



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50 ROWLEY CLOSE, HEDNESFORD	11.00 A.M.	11.00 A.M.	
SE HEATH GAP ROAD, CANNOCH	11.30 A.M.	11.20 A.M.	
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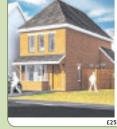
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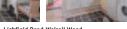


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£175,000



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  Extended
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  Fitted Kitchen/Diner
  Downstairs W.C.
- Utility
   Family Bathroom
   D.Glazing & G.C.Heating
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- No Upward Chain
   Sought After Watermead Grange Develop-

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Norton East Road, Norton Canes

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   Three Bedrooms
   Lounge
   Breakfast Kitchen

£125,000







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- Period Style Terrace
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   Extended Breakfast Kitchen
   Bathroom
   Two Double Bedrooms

- Rear Garden
   Close Proximity to Bloxwich High Street
   Ideal First Purchase
   Suitable Buy-To-Let
- No Upward Chain

  No Upward Chain

  Desirable Location

  Close to Walsall Town Centre

  Communal Parking

  Delightful Communal Gardens

  Garage

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Lichfield Road, Walsall

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  Two Reception Rooms
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  Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
  Ideal Family Home or Buy-to Let Invest





- No Upward Chain
   Off Road Parking
   Garage

£119,995





Greenfields Road, Shelfield

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   Great School Catchment Are

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Tasker Street, Walsall

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Offers in the Region Of £145,000



Coppice Road, Walsall Wood

- Well Presented Period Style Semi
  Off Road Parking
  Delightful Rear Garden
  Two Reception Room
  En-Suite to Master Bedroom
  Breakfast Kitchen











- Suitable Buy-to-Let
   Great First Purchase
   Immaculately Presente
   Refitted Kitchen/Diner
   Refitted Bathroom

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  Cul-De-Sac
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  Double Glazing

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   Delightful Rear Garden
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   NO CHAIN
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£120,000



#### Terret Close, Walsall

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 Double Glazing
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Hawbush Road, Leamore

Offers in the Region Of £115,000





- Spacious Mid-Terrace
   No Upward Chain
   Off Road Parking
   Two Reception Rooms
   Fitted Kitchen
- Refitted Bathroom
   Three Generous Bedrooms
   Utility Area
   Delightful Rear Garden
   Close Proximity to Local Schools



- No Upward Chain
  Ground Floor
  Delightful Communal Gardens
  Close To Train Station (0.3 miles)
  Located Just Off Bloxwich High Stre



West Street, Bloxwich

- No Upward Chain
  Two Reception Rooms
  Fitted Kitchen
  Ground Floor Bathroom
  Two Double Bedrooms
  Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

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- Dining Room
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- eway sant Gardens





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•Guide Price £120,000 PLUS



#### Former Electrical Sub Station, Belchers Lane Birmingham, B9 5RY



• Guide Price £10,000 - £20,000



#### Former electric sub station building, Bakers Lane Aldridge, WS9 8NE



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rs Premium: A Buyers Premium of £900.00 (inclusive of V.A.T.) will be charged

●Guide Price £10,000 - £20,000



# Chepstow Road Walsall, WS3 2NE



•Guide Price £45,000 - £55,000



# Church Close, Old Hall Lane Fradley, WS13 8PB



This Freehold building plot has Planning Permission (subject to conditions) Application Number 14/00470/FUL Lightfield District Council (Lightfielddg.gov.uk) popular village of Fradley, just off the A38 and has views to the village church to the front. Surrounding properties are of a substantial nature and the plot offers an

•Guide Price £165,000 PLUS



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●Guide Price £35,000 - £45,000



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# Perseverance House,Ida Road Walsall, WS2 9SR



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# Stability a key to success

#### By John Griffiths

Three wheels on my wagon . . . and I'm rolling along quite happily, thank you.

Piaggio's MP3, a range of three-wheeled scooters with 300 or 500cc four-stroke engines, attracts many a curious glance because it is an unusual sight on our roads.

Perhaps that's because we're not so scooter-orientated here as our cousins on the continent, where they make up quite a proportion of city traffic.In fact, it's Europe's biggest

Why? Well for a start it can be ridden on a standard car licence, because it falls in the same class as a Reliant Robin, and for those coming from the world of four wheelers it's rather less daunting that an ordinary, 13in wheel two-wheeled scooter because of its inherent stability.

It's also cheap enough to run (80mpg plus and £38 a year VED) and, crucially, it's narrow enough to filter through traffic jams like a conventional bike, unlike some of the more familiar trikes with two wheels at the rear.

Then there's that very clever tilting front end developed by Piaggio which has a number of dynamic advantages.

The MP3 feels more stable over bumpy roads than a twowheeled scooter, and corners like a conventional bike - capable of some pretty extreme lean angles limited mainly by

the risk of grounding the centre stand's foot lever.
It looks strange if you're watching someone else tackling a bend, but perfectly natural if you're in the saddle.

Meanwhile the steering/suspension system

both front wheels stay in contact with the road. That, by its nature, means additional grip which also comes into play when you're braking, and the MP3 has discs on all three wheels so braking is sure and stable.

Just as the MP3 was the first three-wheeled scooter,

these new models are the first to come with anti-lock brakes and traction control which prevent the single, powered rear wheel from slipping in the wet. The new disc brakes are bigger, too, for a little extra stopping power.

The 300 has a conventional 'twist and go' transmission

sion which does dampen its acceleration performance a little but makes urban riding effortless. But on the open road it will reach 70mph in short order and sit there guite happily on a dual carriageway.

The four-stroke engine turns out 23.1bhp and 24.3Nm of torque and is liquid cooled: the machine itself is so quiet you can hear the hum of the cooling fan if you're stuck in slow traffic

The extra stability provided by the third wheel was, for me, particularly welcome at slow speeds around town which is where this MP3 is expected to spend much of its life. Clue - its called the 'Yourban'.

#### **Balanced**

The twin suspension can be locked into the upright position by means of a switch on the right handlebar. This means the MP3 can be parked without using the centre stand, and it has a handbrake too, I did use the stand. though (I always prefer the belt and braces approach) especially as the machine is surprising well balanced so only requires a little foot pressure on the stand lever.

Some riders use the same system at traffic lights and junctions so they don't have to put a foot down (the lock is automatically released as you open the throttle to move off). However the subconscious side of my brain which is conditioned to riding two-wheelers proved difficult to over-

come on relatively short acquaintance with the MP3.
Regular scooter riders will appreciate the weather protection afforded by the tall front shield, and on top of that there's a new height-adjustable windshield.

The seat is sumptuous and beautifully shaped for com-

fort for both the rider and pillion passenger. Underneath, there's a 50 litre 'boot' capable of taking two full-face helmets, and it's even equipped with a light and 12-volt power socket. One of the optional extras is a dedicated multimedia system which allows you to link a smartphone to the Plaggio's electronics, to provide comprehensive trip information as well as a satnay system.

The MP3 also has a pull-out bag hook, plus a draw with USB connection designed for keeping your phone charged, There are two versions of the Yourban, the 'Business' and



'Sport' which appeared well put togethe

and trimmed with chrome and high gloss black plastic.

Bigger five-spoke alloy wheels (up from 12 to 13in) and LED daytime running lights are part of the complete cosmetic redesign for the new models, as are the new handlebars and the full set of modern electronic instruments: speedo, rev counter, clock and trip computer and, usefully,

Also new are the anti-impact pads in front of the rider's knees, plus a parcel holder and grab handles for the pillion rider at the rear,

At £6.134 for the 300cc Yourban, the MP3 isn't chear compared to some rival commuter transport such as, for example, a 250cc bike or more conventional maxi scooter.

of the tilting front end, Piaggio created a whole new market sector. These new models go further along that road, with the addition of disc brakes, traction control and ABS, plus

decent luggage capacity and comprehensive instruments.
I'm not sure about experienced bikers, but the highest card in its winning hand is its confidence-inspiring extra stability and ease of use over conventional rivals. This has clearly proved to be the deciding factor for the 150,000 Europeans – the majority probably car drivers – who have switched to a cheaper, quicker form of commuter transport

It's as different to a conventional bike as it is to a car, but for non-riders contemplating buying one I'd advise a few hours passing your CBT would be well spent.



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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 373 - 85g/km.#

# Take a shine to Mazda2

#### By John Griffiths

Mazda is hoping buyers who want to stand out from the crowd will take a shine to a new special edition of its supermini.

The £15.395 Mazda2 Sport Black is based on the standard 1.5-litre petrol version of the car, but with special paintwork and trim, plus a range of options for further personalisation.

Based on the top specification SE-L Nav version, the new models get stand-out front and side skirts, plus a roof spoiler in 'brilliant black' to contrast with the 'soul red' metallic or 'snowflake white' pearlescent paint



The Sport Black gets a chromed exhaust tailpipe trim, gunmetal alloy wheels, rear privacy glass, rear parking sensors and automatic headlights and wipers. There are also optional decal graphics and contrasting door mirror colours.

The special edition is designed to broaden

the appeal of the Mazda2, which has already won a number of awards – including 'car of the year' in the influential Car Dealer Power

There are 11 petrol and four diesel variants in the range at prices from £11,995 to

The new Mazda2 was launched earlier this year to critical acclaim, because of its equip-

ment, space and driving characteristics.

It is longer than its predecessor, but with shorter overhangs which allowed the engineers to make a significant increase in inte-

The Sport Black's 1.5-litre engine turns out 90PS of power, which (on official figures) is capable of averaging almost 63mpg and a low, tax-busting 105g/km of CO2 emissions. It's 0 to 62mph sprint time is a nifty 9.8 sec-

It's the middle of the three petrol versions in power terms, as well as near the middle of the range in price terms, so an obvious candidate for the sporty styling aimed at adding buyer appeal and, perhaps, broadening the customer base.

If the performance and economy figures are an impressive combination, it's down to Mazda's SKYACTIV technology now used in all its vehicles. It consists of new and more efficient engines combined with significant weight-saving, including the use of stronger vet lighter materials in the body and chassis.

Secondary effects are lower noise levels



'If the performance and economy figures are an impressive combination, it's down to Mazda's SKYACTIV technology now used in all its vehicles.'

and sharper handling. Combined with revised power steering it makes the Mazda2 a fun. confidence-inspired car that's also quiet and refined.

The new car has significantly more headroom, with extra shoulder room for the driver and front passenger, too.

The cabin is trimmed with higher quality materials, with a new seven-inch touch screen dominating the centre of the dash for audio, communications and satnay

The boot, too has grown: now 280 litres

which can be increased to an impressive 950 litres if the split/fold rear seats are folded down

Apart from the Sport Black styling extras, the car comes with a high level of equipment including fog lights, privacy glass, automatic headlamps and wipers rear parking sensors, a multimedia system including CD stereo with integrated Blue tooth, navigation system, smart city brake and lane departure warning, as well as the standard safety package including multiple airbags and stability control.



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WHATCAR?

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Car of the year 2015

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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA Citigo range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 50.4 (5.6) to 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0) to 78.5 (3.6), Combined 62.8 (4.5) to 68.9 (4.1). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA Citigo range are 105 to 95g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 21.7 (13.0) -72.4 (3.9), Extra Urban 40.4 (7.0) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined 30.4 (9.3) - 83.1 (3.4). CO2 emissions for the ŠKODA range are 21.7 - 88g/km. Terms and conditions apply. \*Part exchange vehicles must have at least 3 months M.O.T. minimum.

Balance of Manufacturer's Warranty

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# Well-priced and quality make SUV a great buy By Sharon Walters

It's not all that long ago that marques such as Kia were seen as the cheap and not always necessarily cheerful option - well at least in the likes of my generation!

Now nothing could be further from the truth. Kia produces well-built, stylish, reasonably priced vehicles that have one of the best warranty systems

around.
Things started to change for the company in the late 1990s and began in earnest in 2006 with a design-led revolution following the appointment of Peter Schreyer as chief design officer. That was the start of Phase I of Kia's move away from being primarily focused on value. And now we are in Phase II which is seeing Kia match and surpass not only customer expectations but also the world's best car marques for engineering, technology, refinement and quality.

One car that has gone through these changes is the Kia size SUV. Now in its third generation, the 4x4 is bigger and better than ever before – as I found out in a week-long road test in which I really put it through its paces.

The entry level at £28,795 comes loaded with standard kit although there's only one engine to choose from, and all cars come with standard four-wheel drive with manual and automatic gearboxes options.

The 2.2-litre version of Kia's R-family turbodiesel engine.

which meets EU6 emissions requirements, has plenty of pull with 197bhp and can get from 0 to 60mph in nine seconds with a top speed possible of 124mph. On motorway driving it cruises very comfortably at 70mph with the reassurance of being aware it has that bit of 'extra' if you need to get out of any trouble. And although it's a far-sized car, it copes well with winding rural and pot-holed covered roads. By the way, those are the conditions of the majority of my 25-mile commute to the office each day.

#### **Anticipates**

Sorento features the Dynamax all-wheel-drive system first seen in Kia's Sportage. This is an intelligent, electronically controlled all-wheel-drive system which continuously monitors driving conditions and anticipates when all-wheel drive will be needed, rather than simply reacting to changing conditions. Normally it delivers 100 per cent of engine torque to the front wheels, but the torque can be redistributed up to a maximum of 60:40 front-to-rear to enhance cornering staa miximum of the order to the control of the contro

KX-4. Depending on model, buyers have the choice of six-speed manual or automatic transmission.

All four trim grades have seven seats, now with a 40:20:40 split in the middle row and a 50:50 split in the rear. The third row of seats fold flush into the boot floor, while the second row also folds flat by pulling a handle in the boot and can slide back and forth to accommodate larger passengers in the third row. And it really is easy to fold and move those seats. I loaded my Sorento with friends to gauge the comfort level and even those in the very back said the ride was good and they didn't feel packed in like sardines. Equally I did a trip to a DIY store (not one of my favourite places), put the

seats down and found it to be a very good load lugger.

Depending on model, the Sorento features a number of highly advanced new safety and convenience technologies including adaptive smart cruise control to maintain a gap to the vehicle ahead, speed limit information, around-view monitoring, cross traffic alert to prevent the owner from backing out of a parking space into the path of an approaching vehicle, a smart park assist system, lane departure warning with blind spot detection and self-dimming adaptive

front lighting.

Extensive standard features include alloy wheels, black side sill and wheel-arch mouldings, roof rails and a real spoiler, cornering lights integrated into the foglights, LED daytime running lights, front wiper de-icers, electrically-adjustable, folding and heated door mirrors, door sill scuff plates. steering wheel-mounted controls, all-round electric windows and cruise control with speed limiter. Safety is taken care of by electronic stability control, vehicle stability management, trailer assist, ABS with electronic brake force distribution and brake assist, six airbags, active front head-rests, front seat belt pre-tensioners and load limiters and an active bonnet to protect pedestrians.

And if you do want to tow a horsebox or a caravan, Sorento can manage 2,500kg in manual format and 2,000kg in automatic. Now that is excellent and beats a lot of the opposition in its sector.

Sorento also has Kia's industry-leading seven-year

100,000-mile warranty.

You can't do better than the Sorento if you need an SUV.





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# Honda and the Beatles share year of so many memories

#### **By Sharon Walters**

It was the year the Beatles performed the first stadium concert in the history of music, while cartoon heroes Tom and Jerry and the puppet-tastic Thunderbirds first aired on TV. Cigarette advertising was banned on British TV, the Sound of Music premiered and Churchill was buried. On top of that DJ Jazzy Jeff, Alan Cumming, Brooke Shields and Honda's very own Karen Parry were born.

1965 also saw the year Honda first started trading in the UK.

It also saw the first Grand Prix win for Honda in the legendary RA272, thanks to Ritchie Ginther at the Mexico Grand Prix.

In the last five decades, Honda has achieved milestone after milestone.

Now one of the top 20 biggest brands in the world, Honda employs over 182,000 employees worldwide and has 40 manufacturing facilities making everything from a 25cc leaf blower to a \$4m business jet.

Last year, global sales hit 27.3million units, made up of 17 million motorcycles, six million power products and 4.3million cars.

The European arm employs 8,000 people and last year sold almost 1.4million products.

#### Global

This year also sees 30 years of Honda of the UK Manufacturing (HUM). A 370 acre site in Swindon employing 3,200 people, HUM has benefitted from a self-funded total investment of £2.2bn over the years and will become the global production hub for the five door Civic.

The motorcycles division is number one in the UK market with almost 20 per cent market share. With a product range spanning 65 models, last year, Honda sold 19,000 bikes in the UK

The power products range has 225 models and last yea sold in excess of 50,000 units.

Honda is the number one ATV manufacturer in the Uk and the third largest outboard manufacturer.

From a motorsport perspective in the UK, we have the most successful BSB team in the UK and the BTCC team just won the drivers and manufacturers championships for 2015.

Philip Crossman, managing director at Honda UK, commented: "This year marks our golden anniversary in the UK with fifty years of rich history in trading bikes, power products and cars.

"While this year has been significant in refreshing the car range in its entirety and launching several important new bikes, the Japanese way is to take a much longer viewpoint than just 12 months.

"Our business has changed radically over since is launched in the swinging sixties, adapting and evolving to suit the demands of riders and drivers over the years.

"I can well imagine that Honda will be a completely different organisation in 2065 – but still selling quality and trusted cars, bikes and power products."



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#### Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example: Kia Sportage Diesel Estate 1.7 CRDi ISG 2 5 door

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Customer deposit	£0	Representative	4.9% APR
Kia deposit contribution	£1,200.00	36 monthly payments	£380.73
Amount of credit	£20,000.00	One final payment (GFV)	£8,410.75
Total charge for credit	£3,317.03	Total amount payable	£23,317.03





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MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Terms and conditions apply. 7 year/100,000 mile warranty. See your local dealer or visit kia.co. of for full warranty terms and exclusions. Finance Subject to Status, Guarantees and Indemnities may be required, 18's or over, Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

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The effect of the Order will be to close the southbound carriageway of the M6 from its junction with exit slip at Junction 7 to its junction with the entry slip road at Junction 7.

The work be carried out over two nights between 22:00 hours and 04:30 hours and is expected to start on Monday 23 November 2015. The order will come into force on Monday 16 November 2015.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles beil works or by a traffic officer in uniform will be exempt from the closure.

A diversion route via the roundabout at Junction 7 will be signed For further information please contact Dennis Wheeler on 0121 678 8126

Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

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al) the northbound carriageway of the M5 from its junction with exit slip road at Junction 1, to its junction with the link roads leading to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 8; b) the link roads leading from the northbound carriageway of the M5 – i) to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 8; and ii) to the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 8. The work be carried out over two nights between 22:00 hours and 04:30 hours and is expected to start on Tuesday 24 November 2015. The order will come into force on Tuesday 17 November 2015.

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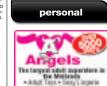
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# Luck was on our side, says Villa's Garde

NEW Villa boss Remi Garde admitted his side got lucky in a backs-to-the-wall draw against Manchester City but maintained: "It's a good

The point ended a run of seven straight defeats for Villa but they remain bottom of the Premier League, five points from safety, after Garde's first game in charge.

They have won just once this sea-

son - on the opening day at Bourne-mouth - but the new manager was pleased with the result, despite ad-mitting Villa rode their luck.

mitting villa rode their luck.
Garde rang the changes in his
starting line-up dropping Jack Grealish and Joleon Lescott to the bench
in favour of Carles Gil and skipper
Micah Richards and Villa looked a

more cohesive unit as a result.

He said: "We have been a bit lucky because they touched the bar, we didn't create so many chances, I

know that.
"City were full of confidence, they were brilliant in Sevilla so it's a good

## Jarryd given backing in bid for Rio

BROWNHILLS ace Jarryd Dunn has been chosen for support by the UK Athletics' World Class Perfor-

Dunn was part of Great Britain's bronze medal-winning 4x400m relay team at the World Athletics Championships last summer, and has set his sights on reaching the 2016 Olym-pics in Rio de Janiero.

pics in Rio de Janiero.

The 23-year-old University of Wolverhampton graduate, who is trained by long-time coach Keith Holt, is one of seven 4x400m relay athletes to receive backing.

He will be provided with top-of-the-range facilities, medical and sports science services, and warm weather training camps ahead of three major competitions next year.

Dunn narrowly missed out on a place at London 2012.

# Phoenix fly Darlo hand Ludlow first beating

DESPITE the absence of three key players, Darlast-on handed West Midlands Division One leaders AFC Ludlow their first league defeat of the season.

They won at home with three of the goals from the penalty spot – despite being without captain Ryan McAllister, Dan Bell and Lucas Hough through

Ludlow took the lead on 32 minutes when Keanu Cooper tucked away Dan Gower's shot. But Martin Stanton levelled three minutes later after a handball by Luke Hicks.

Two second-half penalties from Sam Giles, either side of Leon Taylor's header, clinched it for Dar-

the hosts equalised through acting captain Martin Stanton direct from the penalty spot three minutes later, after Luke Hicks had handled the ball in an attempt to clear the ball from Mark Swann.

Darlaston stepped up the tempo in the second half when substitutes John Reeves and Sam Giles were introduced on 51 and 59 minutes, with Reeves test-

ing keeper Havard at full strength with a powerful 20-yarder on 56 minutes. Ludlow at times were very much on the back foot, and on 66 minutes Havard was forced to fingertip a close range effect from Tyrone Atkinson over the bar following an impressive run from Leon Taylor.

The forthcoming corner saw defender Jack Beaumont raise his foot above head height striking the head of Atkinson in the process, and Darlaston were awarded their second penalty of the afternoon, which was fired home by Sam Giles.

Five minutes from time, a Sam Giles 25 yard free kick was denied by the crossbar, but Leon Taylor killed the game by heading home the rebounded ball.

Five minutes into stoppage time, following the loss of Ludlow defender Gavin Podmore who was carried off through injury, Darlaston were awarded their third penalty of the game.

Giles then stepped up and proceeded to claim his second of the game and Darlaston's fourth.

# Strong Stoke side take down Walsall

THIS was a game that seemed to be fairly even at half time.

The North Staffordshire visitors had es-

tablished a 13-3 lead.

tablished a 13-3 lead.

But both of their tries had been scored as a result of spilled passes by Walsall players. The hosts were also facing a fairly strong wind. The Delves Road supporters expected a strong showing from their team during the second half. But it was the visitors that dictated after the interval as they scored five more tries with a display of determined running and good support

play.
Will Sant had scored a brace of tries and Char-

Will Sant had scored a brace of tries and Unar-lie Maskrey had kicked a penalty for Stoke dur-ing the first period.
Walsall had also shown some good attacking intent with Mike Benson, Reece Bennett, Liam Taylor and Richard Clarke all making defence

breaking runs.
This helped to create pressure on the opposition defence which resulted in Jack Crowhurst putting over a 30 metre penalty.

The hosts put together some more promising attacks but they tended to spill the ball at crucial moments. Walsall would have hoped to use the wind to gain good field positions during the second half.

#### Struggled

But they struggled to gain and retain possession and it was the visitors who made the breakthroughs.

throughs.

Good support play resulted in tries for Joe Maskrey, Hubbard, Unsworth, and two for winger Cameron Brown.

Once again the Walsall performance was affected by injuries with Richard Clarke and Liam Taylor forced to leave the field. Jack Crowhurst kieled another penalty for the best

havior forced to leave the field. Sack Cowlines kicked another penalty for the hosts.

But they will have to show an improvement if they are going to secure some valuable league points in the coming weeks. This Saturday they face a tough task as they travel to play Stratford, the current league leaders.

Walsall United were 25-3 down at Stoke, but

produced a valiant revival before losing 25-15.

A try by Connor Fletcher with Mitch Carless scoring a try and kicking a penalty and a con-

Walsall 3rds were beaten 31-12 by Hand-

sworth 2nds

Tries came from James Quigley and Macdon-ald Foromo with Andy Field kicking a conver-



Connor Pitt kicks the ball out of defence for Walsall who were up against Stoke

Walsall U-16s 50 Newcastle U-16s 13

Walsall welcomed Newcastle to the Delves Road ground for their second league fixture of the season. Walsall started strongly and were soon on the score-oard when a strong run from Rhys Gaddu put him

over the line. The conversion was converted by Will Hennessy his first of five successful Kicks. Newcastle pressure resulted in a converted penalty.

Walsall continued to play most of the game in the Newcastle half and eventually put Cameron Kirkbride

away to sprint under the posts for a converted try.

Walsall played with a lot more control and speed during the second half, resulting in six more tries with only one conceded.

The scorers were Will Hennessy, Cameron Kirkbride, Nico Watkins, Jamie Harding, Rhys Gaddu and Kyle Towers.

# Wood suffer from Stoke revenge

Walsall Wood 0 Stoke City3
WOOD didn't play badly but a Stoke U-21 side
gained revenge for last season's shock defeat, this
time there was no complacency and they thoroughly deserved the victory

In spite of the tricky conditions both sides adapted well.

Wood had the first goal-scoring opportunity on

seven minutes; Corey Currithers crossing from wide left for Grant Beckett to hit a first-time effort that brought a great full-length save from visiting keeper Daniel Gyollai.

Stoke had the better of the next few minutes and

on 17 minutes went ahead, Bobby Moseley came out of defence with the ball before playing a ball down the left to find Mohammed El Ouriachi, he raced into the box took out two defenders played the ball

across the face of the six-yard box to find Dominic Telford who calmly opened the scoring.

Two minutes later a neat right wing move involving Lewis Banks and Thibaud Verlinden presented Ollie Shenton with the chance to fire in a first time rising drive that was pushed over by Wood keeper Lee Evans.
On 24 minutes a right wing free kick was half

cleared to Verlinden whose quick through ball found Telford in the centre of the box, only for him to roll

Two minutes later Ollie Roberts powered through three challenges as he made the right of the box, his vicious low drive well held by the alert Evans.

Wood were trying to get a foot-hold in the game

but were restricted to long-range efforts.

#### Kamikaze

Then on 38 minutes kamikaze defending on the edge of the Wood box saw Roberts win the ball, thread a ball through to Telford lurking on the penalty spot, his lovely turn took him away from his marker and he fired a low drive just inside the left hand post to put the Potters firmly in the driving seat

Seat. Wood put the visitors under pressure at the start of the second half but the nearest they came to halve the second half but the nearest they came to halve the second half but the nearest they came to halve the second half but the nearest they came to halve the second half but the nearest they came to halve the second half but the nearest they came to halve the nearest ing into the left of the box to hit a low drive that was deflected by a last ditch defensive challenge, just the

group side of the post. Telford completed his hatwrong side of minutes, wrapping the game up in the process, but once again it was Ouriachi's pace and power down the left taking him into the box, before his low cross was tucked home by the striker, again

from the edge of the six-yard box.

Telford nearly made it 4-9 when Verlinden ,wide right, tried to emulate his left wing counterpart by cutting inside and finding Telford who hit a first

Time effort narrowly wide.

Then on 83 minutes Joey Butlin and Lewis Taylor Boyce combined cleverly on the left of the box before releasing Harry Harris into the danger zone,

before releasing Harry Harris into the danger zone, keeper Gyollai out quickly and bravely to block the low drive and deny Wood even a consolation goal. Wood were really made to work hard to stay with the professionals, but they kept battling away. They had no answer to the pace and power of Mohammed El Ouriachi who was as difficult to mark as his name was to pronounce.

A problem some of our players reckon Match of the Day commentators will be facing soon, time will tell

The nigh belonged to Stoke City, as they progress to Round 2 and deservedly so.

# **Blox Firsts** lose their flair as well as the game

Bloxwich Mens 1st s Ludlow 4 Bloxwich 3

DESPITE a comfortable win against Market Drayton last week, Bloxwich struggled to play with the flair they know they can against what turned out to be a strong Ludlow team.

strong Ludiow team.

Bloxwich started well with midfielder Gary Williams getting his fifth goal of the season early on however, any celebration was short-lived as the Ludlow went of the goal trail.

the goal trail.

The home side's defence struggled against a skilful and youthful Ludlow team and by the half time break their lead had been wiped out and they had conceded three

However, Bloxwich were not going to give up this game with-out a fight and in true Barbarian out a ignt and in true Barbarian style, fought back to get the game back to level with Phil Ashcroft scoring a well worked short corner and Jake Perkins getting the final touch on a Harry Robinson shot.

Despite the fight back, Blox-wich's defence was again strug-gling and bowed to pressure from their opponents towards the end of the game to give Ludlow the win.

A yellow card was given after a scuffle in the dying seconds to add to Bloxwich's woes, one of many cards for the Bloxwich team.

The Barbarians discipline was not as good as it has been in previous weeks and needs improving if they want to keep up their fight for promotion this season.

Bloxwich need to learn from this, their first defeat of the sea-son, and make sure the team pre-pare well for when they face Kings Heath at Sneyd next week.

# Pulis hits at defence after United loss

ALBION boss Tony Pulis criticised individual defensive errors after seeing his side go down at Old Trafford.

Jonny Evans has been superb on his first return to Old Trafford but his first return to Old Traiford but it was his pass into Stephane Sesseg-non that allowed United to steal the ball and send Anthony Martial away on the break.

Evans had bombed forward look-ing fees they begins 25 look-

ing for a one-two, leaving 35-year-old Gareth McAuley tasked with catching 19-year-old Anthony Mar-

tial.

The Northern Irishman caught up with the United striker, but only managed to chop him down, concede

a penalty, and get sent off.

"The second goal, we play a straight ball in and against top players and top teams anywhere in the world, if you play straight passes in and you run past the ball and that and you run past the ball and that pass is intercepted then they're on you like a shot," said Pulis. Albion has the oldest squad in the Premier-ship and the manager has seen how electric pace can hurt his defence.."

# International friendlies a waste – boss

ALBION boss Tony Pulis has vented his anger at the disruption to the Premier League season labelling international friendlies a 'waste of

space'.

The Baggies' manager has been critical of the frequency and longevity of the breaks when slaves.

are taken away from the club.

This current international break is the third of the season, but even more frustrating for Pulis is the fact

that the majority of his players are off to play friendlies.
"I personally don't think that players should go away for friendly games," he said. "The week that they have now, that should be a coaching week.

"I think Roy [Hodgson] should take them away and there should be



**Wood side fall to** a revenge attack Page 55

Walsall suffer a Stoke of bad luck Page 55

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# Evans in no rush to leave Saddlers

MIDFIELDER George Evans admits he is keen to extend his loan spell with Walsall.

The Manchester City youngster has shone since joining the Saddlers for an initial month on October 20.

Evans has netted three times in four

Evans has netted three times in four Walsall appearances after stepping into the void left by the injured Sam Mantom. The latest of the those goals came in the 2-0 FA Cup win over Fleetwood on Saturday, with Evans delighted with the start he has made. "I'm really enjoying my time here," he said.

"Each day I'm learning from a great.

"Each day I'm learning from a great manager and great players. I'm only going to develop into a better player by being here at Walsall.

being here at Walsall.

"I'd be delighted to stay for a longer period but it's a conversation that will happen between the gaffer and Manchester City. "I've spoken to the manager here a few times and if he wants me to stay I am more than happy to do that."

As well as scoring, Evans also cleared one off the line as Fleetwood pressed for an equaliser in the FA Cup first round clash. But he believes the Saddlers deserved the win the tie.

"Fleetwood had good movement — it.

"Fleetwood had good movement – it was a tough game but I thought we deserved the win," he said.
"I thought we stayed organised and compact and I thought we defended well as a unit. It was a tough game but we communicated well and kept that clean sheet.

"I got one off the line but that's what it's all about, you have got to help each other out but all the players here look after each other.

Meanwhile, boss Dean Smith confirmed there have been no approaches made for talented full-back Rico Henry .

# **Lockmen share points** from game with drama but no goals

Willenhall Town 0 Pegasus Jrs 0

BOTH sides will be reasonably happy with a point from an exciting but ulti-

mately goalless encounter.

The Lockmen attacked from the off,

The Lockmen attacked from the off, Ross Clarke seeing an effort blocked on 20 seconds before Matt Dorgan glanced a second-minute corner just wide.

Pegasus keeper Nathan Phillips then saved bravely at the feet of Clarke before Ben Holden did likewise to deny Sam Pearson at the other end. Holden then pushed a long-range effort over the bar before a Callum Foster shot flew across the feet of great Phillips saved wall from the face of goal. Phillips saved well from Dorgan's downward header and Sam Oxley hit a post for the Juniors before

half-time. Visiting skipper Cory Hyde screwed a second-half shot horribly wide before the home team got back into their stride, Wilson (twice) and Dorgan forced saves from Phillips and substitute Jon Ashfall's header landed on the bar then Adam Holiday saw his follow-up blocked on the line.

Hyde was dismissed for a rant at the referee but Willenhall could not find a

way past the 10 men.

# Wood almost let victory slip away

Dunkirk 2 Walsall Wood 3

WOOD were comfortably ahead 3-1 at the break then they conceded a goal four minutes after the restart and missed a third consecutive penalty.

They survived a torrid 10 minute spell afterwards before wasting a host of chances and being relieved to hear the final whistle to record win No.3 on the trot at Dunkirk.

After just two minutes Wood carved open the home defence, Craig Deakin bringing the ball out of defence and finding Joey Butlin to release Dan Griffiths into the right of the box, his first time offert bit well wide of the box.

From the goal kick Wood gave away a free kick on the left edge of their box, the ball played into the centre, two shots were charged down, the ball finding its way out to skipper Lee Stevenson 20 yards out to fire high over the bar.

yards out to fire high over the bar.

On 24 minutes Ben Birch gave keeper Want no chance as his shot flew low into the net to open his goalscoring account.

Within is minutes it was all square, from a left wing corner Tom Hannigan totally unmarked with the constraint of the constra

picked his spot and headed in the equaliser.

Parity only lasted two minutes, Griffiths firing an unstoppable rising drive to put Wood back in front. Corey Currithers intercepted a ball and played it back to Deakin, the perfect far post cross powerfully headed home by Griffiths.

Within four minutes of the restart the home side were back in the game when substitute Oliver Clark headed home.

ALewis Taylor Boyce rolled a cross shot wide of the left hand post on 80 minutes, Steven Hay-les then raced 60 yards only to fire his cross shot

Wood somehow were left holding on, in a game that they almost totally dominated.

# Shelton is a Payne in the Ramsbottom

Ramsbottom 2 Rushall Olympic 1 RUSHALL Olympic fell to a narrow onegoal Evo-Stik Northern Premier defeat

goal Evo-Stik Northern Premier defeat at cellar side Ramsbottom after playing for more than an hour with only 10 men. They may be bottom of the league but Ramsbottom, took the lead when Shelton Payne sent in a low cross which Mitchell Tolley put through his own net on 27 minutes.

That was just the start as things then went from bad to worse for the visitors from the Midlands.

from the Midlands.

Massiah McDonald missed a shooting opportunity before Aris Christophorou was shown a red card for bringing down Payne when he was clearly clean through.

Yet the Pics almost levelled the game Yet the Prcs almost levelled the game right on the stroke of half-time when Jack Duggan's header was aimed at the mark but was cleared off the Ramsbot-tom line by Matthew Poscha. Luke Benbow went close twice early

Luke Benbow went close twice early on in the second half. His first saw him firing wide from distance and then his next attempt clip-ping the post with an ambitious over-head kick.

head kick.

It proved to be third time lucky for Benbow who equalised on 54 minutes, rounding keeper Grant Shenton and getting in position to slot in the shot left-footed.

All the chances were falling to Rushall now with Duggan and Benbow forcing good saves from Shenton who frustrated them in their attempts to take the game. But Payne inflicted a cruel blow with a

near-post finish to win the game for the hosts with six minutes to go.

The Pics kept trying to get the game back but ultimately had to face the fact

they were beaten by the lowest team

# SADDLERS W T NO MAG

Walsall 2 Fleetwood 0

#### FOR lovers of the FA Cup, the first round of the competition is always a day to savour.

Yet the magic associated with the world's oldest football tournament was sprinkled very lightly at the Banks's Stadium on Saturday.

Stadium on Saturday.

Just why the importance of the competition has diminished over the years is a debate that has raged long and hard.

But with just 2,532 fans watching this clash, there is no doubt the prestigious Cup doesn't capture the public as it once did.

This was anything but the thrilling atmosphere felt in the build-up to last weekend's top-of-thetable clash with Gillingham.

And that lack of existement seemed on to the

And that lack of excitement seeped on to the

And that lack of excitement seeped on to the Banks's turf for this clash between two League One sides.

Walsall started slowly despite Dean Smith

showing how much importance he was placing on the competition by naming his strongest side. And it took the Saddlers the best part of 15 minutes to find any real rhythm.

#### **Differences**

Fortunately, there are a host of differences between this Saddlers side and the one that faced Shrewsbury in the opening round 12 months ago.

The first is that this team has goals all over

The first is that this team has goals all over the pitch.

The second is that they understand the importance of scoring when they are on top.

And having started to enjoy the lion's share of possession, that's exactly what they did through the hugely impressive George Evans.

By finding the target from the best part of 25 yards, the midfielder registered his third goal in just four cames to exclude his cuttanding tart.

just four games to continue his outstanding start to life in Saddlers' colours.

With the wind in their sails, Smith's side con-

tinued to press with Tom Bradshaw going close on three occasions as he looked to impress the

watching Chris Coleman.

While never quite hitting their best, Walsall would have been out of site at half-time had their

finishing been better.

But, with Smith forced to withdraw Neil



Tom Bradshaw leaves his marker floored during the Cup clash against Fleetwood

momentum changed.

Fleetwood started to enjoy a sustained spell of pressure, particularly down the Walsall left.

And they should have pulled level on the hour when Antoni Sarcevic headed Jimmy Ryan's corner over from close range.

For the next 20 minutes, the game become a midfield battle with chances few and far between. It was Walsall though who looked the more threatening, with Evans and Adam Chambers winning the midfield battle.

Yet as the clock ticked past the 80-minute mark, the Cod Army gave it everything they could

Etheridge and Milan Lalkovic at the break, the to force a replay. Evans cleared off the line, De

to lorce a repiay. Evans cleared out the line, De-clan MaManus curled inches past the post and Nathan Pond headed narrowly over.

Walsall kept Steven Pressley's side at bay by working tirelessly with skipper Chambers and centre-back Paul Downing particularly impres-

And to make sure Fleetwood knew their place, Anthony Forde scored in stoppage time to end any hopes of a fightback.

Most importantly, the League One leaders maintained their impressive momentum heading

into the international break – with winning now a very happy habit for the Saddlers.

## Smith's link with Bees is dismissed

REPORTS linking Walsall boss Dean Smith has been linked with the Bees

hot-seat along with Gillingham manager Justin Edinburgh. But it is understood there has been no

But it is understood there has been no approach with Saddlers officials saying they do not comment on "pure speculation". Smith has been linked with a number of clubs in the Championship following a spate of sackings.

Yet a move to Brentford seems farfetched after Lee Carsley was handed the job until the end of this season.

Since his\_appointment, Carsley has

Since his appointment, Carsley has won four of his eight games in charge.



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